

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

- School buses are the safest form of highway transportation.
- Most serious school bus incidents occur when children are outside the bus, and 75% of these incidents involve children under the age of nine.
- The loading and unloading area is called the “Danger Zone”.
- The Danger Zone is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver’s blind spot, and the area behind the bus).
- Young children are most likely to be struck because they:
 - Hurry to get on and off the bus
 - Act before they think and have little experience with traffic
 - Assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross the street
 - Don’t always stay within the bus driver’s sight

Make sure your children know and follow these rules:

1. Be on time for the bus.
2. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Be alert and stand back from the curb.
4. Don’t push or shove.
5. Stay in your seat.
6. Don’t yell or shout.
7. Always obey the driver.
8. Wait for the driver’s signal before crossing.
9. Always cross at least 12 feet in front of the bus.
10. Never crawl under a school bus.

Meet the bus.

Coordinate with other parents to ensure an adult is present at the bus stop every day, especially when children under the age of nine are present.

Avoid using gadgets near buses.

Headphones, cell phones, MP3 players all distract our kids from knowing when a bus is approaching. Urge your kids to wait to use them when they’re a safe distance from the bus.

Remove drawstrings.

Your kids’ favorite clothing may not always be the safest. Drawstrings can catch in playground equipment, fences, school bus doors and escalators. Remove, shorten or replace drawstrings with another kind of fastener.

By following simple rules, you can keep your kids safe – before they get on and while they are on the bus.