

Parent Expectation for School Bus Safety

The safety of all students riding the bus to and from school is a responsibility we all share. Parents hold a key, vital role in ensuring School Bus Safety. The information contained on this page is provided to give you the tools to help teach your child to be safe on the walk to and from the stop, at the stop and on the bus.

Getting Ready for School

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.
- Encourage them to wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Ensure loose drawstrings, chains or other dangling objects are removed from clothing, coats and bags.
- Make sure they leave home on time so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due, typically at least 5 minute before. Running can be dangerous.

Walking to the Bus Stop

- Walking your young child to the bus stop is best or have children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, and if there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street.
- If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.
- Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Do the same thing at driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.

At the Bus Stop

- Wait in a location where the driver can see you as they drive down the street. Never wait in a house or car
- Do not play in the street.
- Playing with balls or other toys that could roll into the street is dangerous.
- Arrive at the stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival.

Getting On and Off the Bus

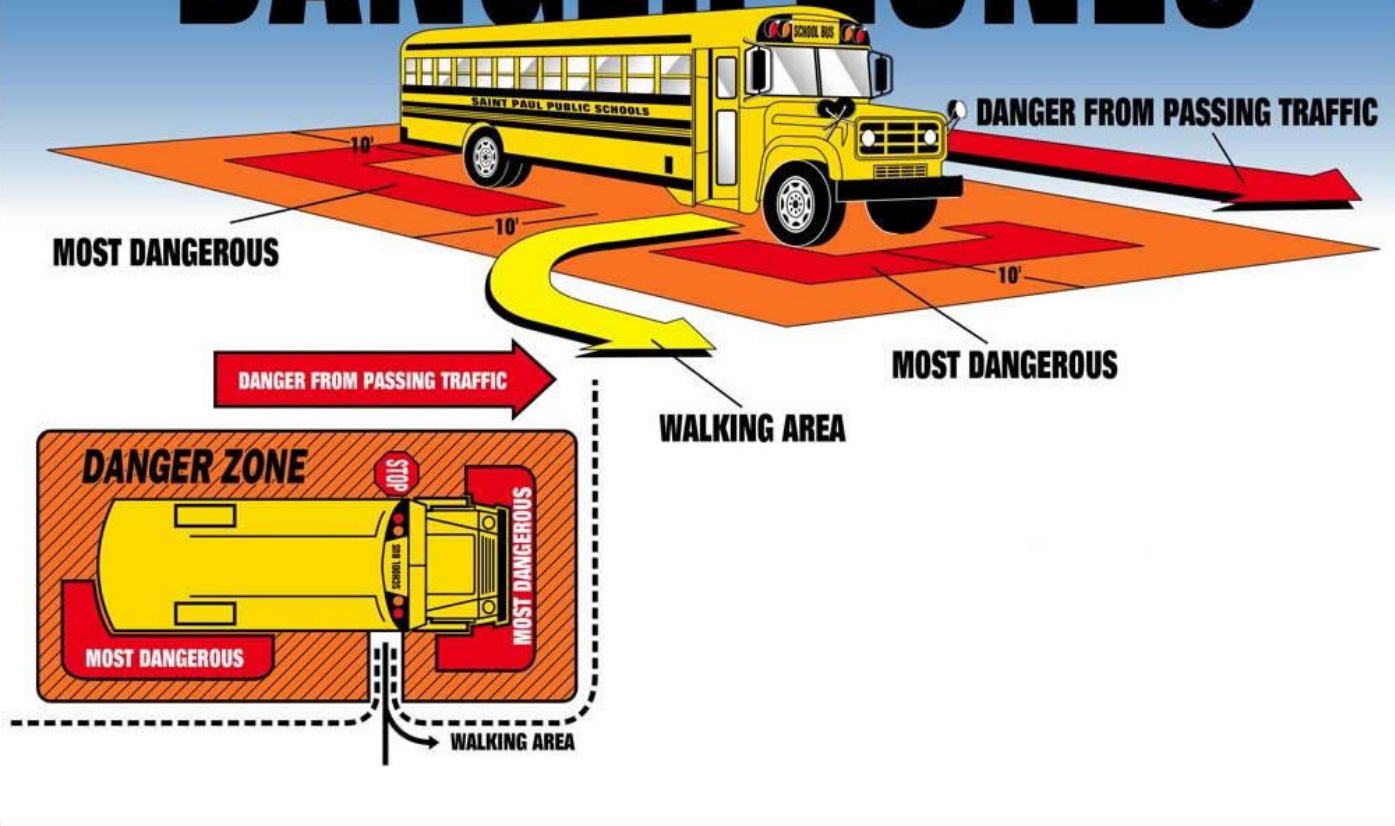
- Warn children that if they drop something, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus.
- Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- If you would like your child to get off at a stop other than the one assigned, please be aware that the driver isn't allowed to let a child off at another stop without written permission from the school.
- If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.
- Have a backup plan in case you are not home
 - How to get home in case you are not at the stop.
 - Teach your children what neighbor to go to if this happens.

Riding the Bus

- Children should talk quietly, be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.

SCHOOL BUS


DANGER ZONES



FACT: School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off roads surrounding schools each morning.

SOURCE: AMERICAN SCHOOL BUS COUNCIL



=  **36 CARS**

FOR A NATIONAL SAVINGS OF

2.3 BILLION GALLONS OF FUEL

6.0 BILLION DOLLARS

44.6 BILLION POUNDS OF CO₂

Imagine a world with less traffic, cleaner air, and more affordable transportation. These are just some of the benefits that school bus ridership provides. While school buses are one of the safest ways to send your kids to school, there are many good reasons that make them a growing choice among parents for their children's school commute.

Sidebar Facts

School buses keep cars off the road, decreasing both traffic congestion and fuel emissions.

Source: American School Bus Council

School buses represent 25 percent of the miles traveled by students but account for less than 4 percent of the injuries.

Source: Transportation Research Board, "The Relative Risks of School Travel: A National Perspective and Guidance for Local Community Risk Assessment," TRB Special Report 269, Accessed 9/20/11.

School buses decrease our dependence on foreign oil through an annual savings of 2.3 billion gallons of fuel.

Source: American School Bus Council