



**LEARN THE  
FACTS**  
**PLAY IT SAFE**  
[schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com)

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL BUS

**While the school bus is the safest way to travel to and from school, children still need to be careful as they get on and off the bus. Obstructed views and distracted drivers put children at risk. It's important that parents teach them ways they can stay safe in and around the school bus.**

- Show children how and when to stay at a safe distance.
- Younger children should be supervised at the bus stop.
- Children who rush are particularly vulnerable, so make sure to get to the bus stop early.
- Show children how to stay three giant steps away from the road until the school bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens.
- Children should never walk behind the school bus.
- Children who cross in front of the school bus should stay at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from it and make sure that the bus driver sees them before they step off the curb.
- Teach children to wait until no cars are coming from either direction before they cross the street.
- Make eye contact with the driver and wait for the OK signal to cross the road.
- Explain to children why conversations and play time should wait until they are safely seated, or safely away from the school bus.
- Children should use handrails when getting on and off the school bus and secure any loose or hanging objects, like straps or drawstrings.
- If a child drops something outside the school bus, tell them to NEVER try to pick it up. They should always tell the driver and wait for his or her instructions.

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***It's estimated that over  
10 million drivers illegally pass  
school buses every year.***

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- Children should not yell while riding the school bus. The bus driver needs to be able to hear other vehicles on the road.
- Share information about how to help keep children safe, in and around the school bus, from [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com)

*fact:*  
**THE SCHOOL BUS IS THE  
SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL  
TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

**YOUTH FATALITIES DURING SCHOOL TRAVEL HOURS**

NHTSA FARS 2005 TO 2013 (FINAL), 2014 ARF



TEEN DRIVER: **57%** ADULT DRIVER: **23%** OTHER TRAVEL: **19%** **SCHOOL BUS: <1%**



*My choice...  
their ride.*



Students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely if they take the school bus instead of traveling by car. Factor in the environmental and financial benefits, and it's hard to find a reason to send kids to school any other way. Find out what you don't know about school bus ridership. Learn the facts and play it safe. Visit [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com) for more information.



Nearly two-thirds of school bus-related fatalities of school-age children occur outside of the school bus.



One-third of those children are between 5 and 7 years old.



More school-age pedestrians are killed from 7 - 8 a.m. and 3 - 4 p.m. than any other times of day.



Passing vehicles cause an estimated two-thirds of school bus loading and unloading fatalities.



American School Bus Council  
1840 Western Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203  
(866) 955-2722

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO MAKE **RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS EVEN SAFER FOR YOUR CHILD**



**LEARN THE  
FACTS  
PLAY IT SAFE**

[schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com)





## TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE

While the school bus is the safest way to travel to and from school, children still need to be careful as they get on and off the bus. Obstructed views and distracted drivers put kids at risk, which is why it's important that parents teach them ways to stay safe.

- The most dangerous area around the school bus is within a 10-foot radius on all sides. Show children how and when to stay at a safe distance.
- Younger children should be supervised at the bus stop.
- Children who rush are particularly vulnerable, so make sure to get to the bus stop early.
- Show children how to stay three giant steps away from the road until the school bus comes to a complete stop and the door opens.
- Children should never walk behind the school bus.
- Children who cross in front of the school bus should stay at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from it and make sure that the bus driver sees them before they step off the curb.



CHILDREN SHOULD CHECK FOR PASSING VEHICLES FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS BEFORE ENTERING THE ROADWAY.

- Teach children to wait until no cars are coming from either direction before they can cross the street.
- Tell children that conversations and play time have to wait until they are safely seated, or safely away from the school bus.
- Children should use handrails when getting on and off the school bus and secure any loose or hanging objects, like straps or drawstrings.
- If a child drops something outside the school bus, tell them to NEVER try to pick it up and to tell the driver.
- Children should not yell while riding the school bus. The bus driver needs to be able to hear other vehicles on the road.

## RISKS FROM MOTORISTS

Motorists break the law and risk children's lives when they fail to stop for the school bus as it loads and unloads its passengers. Yet it's estimated that over 10 million drivers illegally pass school buses every year.

Let others know that putting kids' lives at risk is not OK.

- Report aggressive drivers and those who fail to obey stop-arm laws to local authorities.
- Encourage your community to take a pledge to brake for the school bus. Ways to spread the word are at [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com).

*Play it safe.  
Respect the ride.*



Find out what else you can do to keep children safe in and around the school bus. Visit [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com) for more information.



# *fact:* **MOTORISTS WHO ARE CARELESS AROUND THE SCHOOL BUS PUT CHILDREN IN DANGER**

## **DANGER ZONE SAFE DRIVING PROCEDURES**

NATIONAL CONGRESS ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION



### **DANGER ZONE**

MOTORISTS SHOULD NOT BE WITHIN  
A 10-FOOT RADIUS AROUND ALL  
SIDES OF THE SCHOOL BUS.

**10 FOOT  
RADIUS**

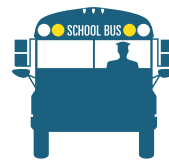
### **STOP ZONE**

STOP AT A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE  
SCHOOL BUS WHEN THE STOP ARM IS OUT AND  
THE FLASHING RED LIGHTS ARE ON.

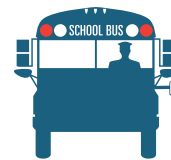
**UP TO  
25 FEET**

**WHEN A SCHOOL BUS IS PRESENT**  
TRAVEL SLOWER AND FARTHER AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL BUS.  
SLOW DOWN WHEN THE FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS GO ON.

**SLOW  
DOWN**



**SLOW**



**STOP**

**PASSING VEHICLES CAUSE**  
AN ESTIMATED TWO-THIRDS  
OF SCHOOL BUS LOADING AND  
UNLOADING FATALITIES.

MORE SCHOOL-AGE  
PEDESTRIANS ARE KILLED FROM  
**7 - 8 A.M. AND 3 - 4 P.M.**  
THAN ANY OTHER TIMES OF DAY.



Motorists risk children's lives when they fail to stop for the school bus as it loads and unloads its passengers. Yet it's estimated that over 10 million drivers illegally pass school buses every year. To keep children safe, start by learning the laws in your state. It's illegal to pass a school bus within the roadway as it drops off or picks up passengers—regardless of the direction of approach. Remember that there is no "safe" way to illegally pass the school bus, so be cautious when sharing the road with it. Finally, let others know that putting kids' lives at risk is not OK. Report aggressive drivers and spread the word by sharing material found at [schoolbusfacts.com](http://schoolbusfacts.com). Take a pledge to brake for the school bus.



# Bus Rules



LISTEN TO THE BUS DRIVER, FOLLOW THEIR  
DIRECTIONS IMMEDIATELY

DO NOT WEAR HEADPHONES/EARBUDS WHEN BOARDING  
OR EXITING THE BUS

DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE WHEN BOARDING OR  
EXITING THE BUS

ONCE YOU ARE ON THE BUS, QUICKLY FIND A SEAT, SIT  
DOWN AND STAY SEATED

KEEP HEAD, HANDS AND ARMS INSIDE THE BUS

KEEP AISLES CLEAR, BACKPACKS, BOOKS AND INSTRU-  
MENTS MUST BE OUT OF THE WAY OF THE AISLES

KEEP YOUR SPEECH POSITIVE AND UPLIFTING (WORDS  
CAN HURT AND BELITTLE

DO NOT SMOKE—THIS INCLUDES VAPING AND SMOKELESS  
TOBACCO

DO NOT BE DESTRUCTIVE

KEEP THE BUS CLEAN

USE OF ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVICES IS PROHIBITED—

NO PHOTOGRAPHING OF OTHERS ON THE BUS IS ALLOWED

DO BE KIND AND COURTEOUS TO OTHERS AND THE BUS  
DRIVERS

DO HELP OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE IN NEED OF HELP