



## School Bus Safety: Tips for Parents

### Getting ready for school

- Allow enough time in the morning for unhurried, calm school preparation.
- Have children put everything they carry in a backpack/school bag so they won't drop things along the way.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers or put a piece of high-visibility, reflective tape on coats and backpacks.
- Help your children leave the house on time and allow for weather. Plan to arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.

### Walking to the bus stop

- Walk your child to the bus stop. Have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- If they must cross the street, tell your child to look left, right and then left again. They should 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.
- Remind your children to walk on the sidewalks. If they have to walk on roads with no sidewalk, remind them to always walk against traffic and stay off the road as much as possible.

### Waiting for the bus

- Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop.
- Stay out of the road! Make sure your child is at least 10 feet (five giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus.

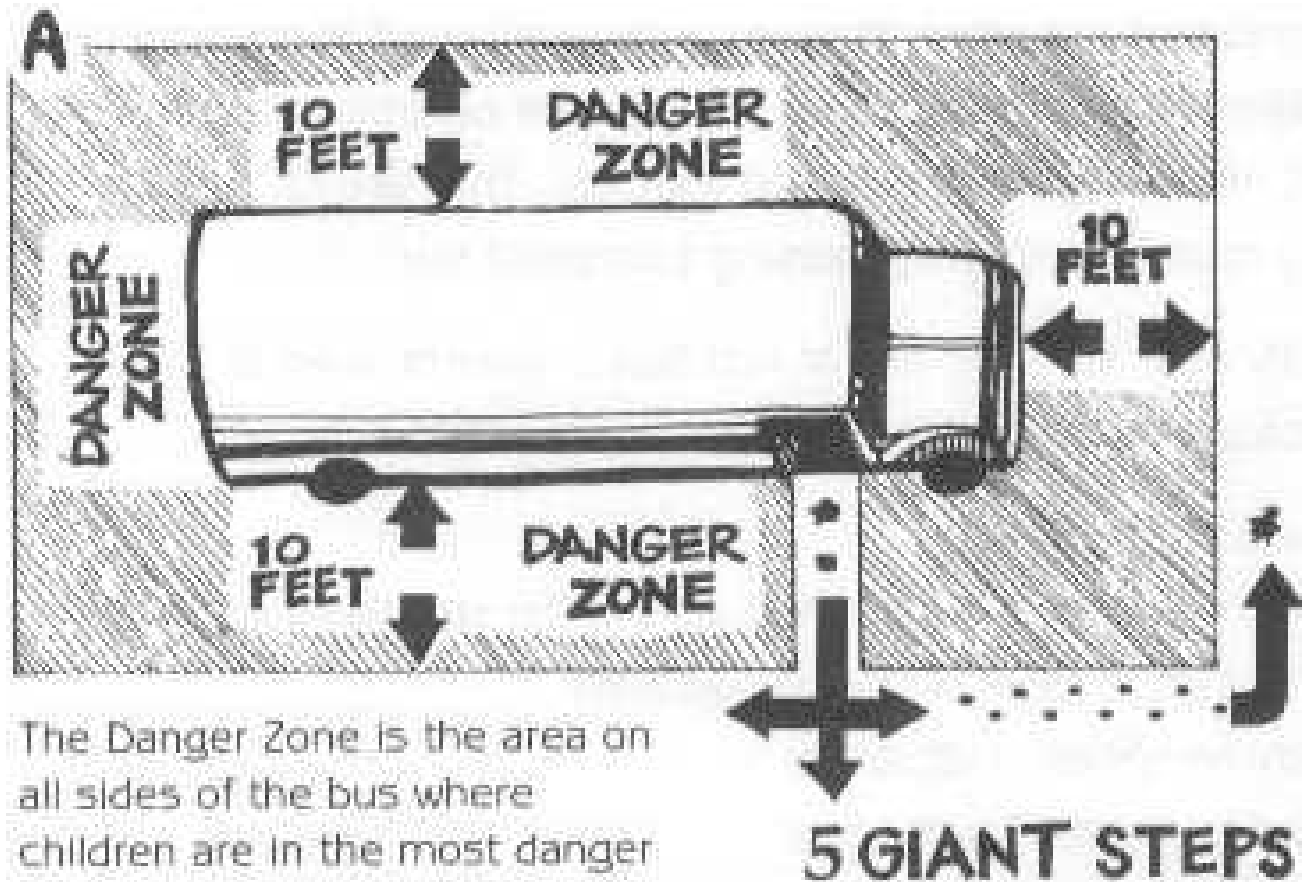
### Boarding the bus

- Warn children that if they drop something, they should never immediately pick it up. First, tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If a child bends over to pick up an object, he or she might not be seen by the driver.
- Give your child a note (or follow school policy) if you would like the child to get off at a stop other than the one he is assigned. The driver is not allowed to let a child off at another stop without written permission.

### Exiting the bus

- Encourage your children to secure loose drawstrings or other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus stop as they exit.
- Six feet on either side of the bus and 10 feet in front of the bus are considered the "Danger Zone." This is the area in which it is most difficult to see children around the school bus, so remind your children to take five giant steps in front of the bus before crossing.
- When you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off. Children may dash across the street, excited to see you.

## School Bus Danger Zones



The Danger Zone is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of being hit. Children should stay ten feet away from the bus (or as far away as they can) and never go behind it. They should take five giant steps in front of the bus before crossing, so they can be seen by the driver.

# School Bus Safety: Tips for Students

## Walking to the Bus Stop

- Make sure you leave home on time so you can walk to the bus stop and arrive at least 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Always walk on the sidewalk to the bus stop; never run. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left, facing traffic.
- When crossing the street, look left, right and then left again. If cars are blocking your view, go to the nearest corner to cross.

## Waiting for the Bus

- While at the bus stop, wait quietly in a safe place away from the road.
- Don't play running games or push and shove at the bus stop.
- Stay out of the road! Make you are at least 10 feet (five giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Line up away from the street as the school bus approaches.



## Boarding the Bus

- Do not run alongside the bus while it is moving. Wait until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals for you to enter.
- When the bus approaches, step back at least three giant steps from the curb so the bus driver can pull up.
- Enter the bus in line with the younger students in front. Hold the handrail while going up and down the stairs.
- Go directly to a seat.
- If you drop an item, never pick it up right away. Tell the driver first and follow their instructions. If you bend over to pick something up, the driver might not see you.

## On the Bus

- Stay in your seat while the bus is moving.
- Let the bus driver concentrate on the road. Lots of students talking very loudly is distracting, and it's the driver's job to get you to school safely.
- Never put your head, arms or hands out the window.
- Keep the aisles clear- someone may trip over a backpack or lunchbox.

## Exiting the Bus

- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, but not all of them do.
- Make sure there's nothing sticking out of your pockets or backpack that could get caught on the handrail of the bus or the bus door as you exit.
- If you have to cross the street, ALWAYS cross in front of the bus. Walk on the sidewalk to a point that's at least five giant steps ahead of the bus before you cross. Make eye contact with the bus driver to be sure that the bus driver can see you.
- Stop and look before hurrying away from the bus at the end of the day.

## School Bus Safety: Tips for Drivers



- Be aware of school zone signage and reduce speed in school zones during posted hours.
- Be ready to stop at all times. Children do not always notice oncoming traffic.
- Always try to make eye contact with children waiting to cross the road.
- Be patient and wait for children to complete their crossing before proceeding.
- Stop when a STOP paddle is help up by a crossing guard.
- Never try to pass a bus that has stopped to let children off. Wait until the stop sign on the side of the bus has been retracted before proceeding.