

10 Minute Training Topic

School Bus Safety

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SafetyFirstTM

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Back to School

With the new school year rapidly approaching there will be more kids and school buses on the streets.

More than half of students nationwide ride buses to school, making buses a key part of our school infrastructure.

Studies show that children are injured not only on the bus, but often as they approach or leave the bus.





Statistics

On average 108 people were killed annually in school transportation-related incidents from 2013 to 2022.

Every day more than 20 million students are bussed to and from school in the United States.

More than any other vehicles on the road, school buses meet 42 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Bus Safety Features

School buses boast a wide array of safety features to protect passengers, such as:

- | Rooftop emergency exit hatches
- | Front and rear door sensors
- | Reinforced sidewalls
- | Retractable stop sign and lights
- | High-backed seats
- | Pedestrian crossing arm
- | Shatterproof glass windows



School Zone Safety

Even if you don't see any nearby, always assume children are present when you're driving near a school.

In and around schools you should expect increased traffic, especially during drop-off and pick-up times.

Always follow the direction of police and crossing guards and adhere to dedicated school zone speed limits.



School Zone Safety

You should assume that pedestrians in and near school zones and buses might be distracted—especially kids.

Do not block or obscure intersections or crosswalks while stopped, waiting to turn, or dropping off/picking up.

Never pass a school bus that has its stop arm extended or lights flashing as children are likely getting on or off.



Driving Near a Bus

School buses are frequently stopping to drop off and pick up passengers at their homes, schools, and bus stops.

This stop-and-go as they load and unload passengers can slow down traffic during the day's rush hours.

No matter how rushed, impatient, or frustrated you are, passing a stopped school bus is dangerous and illegal.



Driving Near a Bus

Should a school bus stop and have its lights flashing and stop sign out, drivers should do as follows:

TWO LANE ROAD

All traffic traveling in both directions must stop for the bus.

TWO LANE ROAD (with center turning lane)

All traffic traveling in both directions must stop for the bus.



Driving Near a Bus

Should a school bus stop and have its lights flashing and stop sign out, drivers should do as follows:

FOUR LANE ROAD (without center median)

All traffic traveling in both directions must stop for the bus.

DIVIDED HIGHWAY (with center median)

Only traffic following the bus/traveling in the same direction as it must stop.



Summary

- As the new school year approaches it's important to understand school bus safety.
Every day millions of kids ride school buses in the US and they tend to be hurt near but not while on the vehicle.
- School buses are extremely safe but injuries and deaths can still occur.
Buses meet 42 federal safety standards, though every year people still die or are hurt in bus-related events.
- School buses are packed with safety features to protect passengers and drivers.
Reinforced construction, flashing lights, crossing arms, stop signs and more help keep passengers safe.
- Schools zones require extra attention, vigilance, and caution when driving.
Use caution; obey police, crossing guards and speed limits; and always expect there to be pedestrians nearby.
- School buses stop frequently to drop off and pick up passengers, requiring extra caution from drivers.
It's important to understand who is required to stop for a school bus when it makes a pick up/drop off stop.

SafetyFirst wishes all students, parents, faculty, staff, and bus drivers a safe and happy school year!



This document and the information contained within are to be used as guidelines.
Refer to your company policies as well as federal, state and local law.

(201) 267-8900 | safetyfirst.com | sales@safetyfirst.com