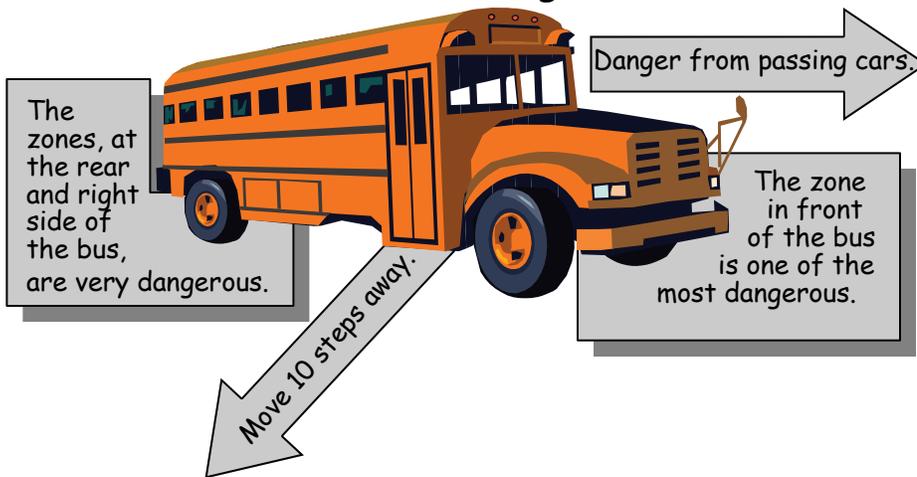


School Bus Safety

Steps **EVERYONE** can take
to make sure students travel to school safely

Avoid the Danger Zone!



School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation. Getting on and off the bus is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride. That's why the loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." This area — which extends 10 feet in front of the bus, 10 feet on each side of the bus, and behind the bus — is where children are at greatest risk of not being seen by the bus driver. Children need to be taught how to get on and off the school bus safely.

Students

At the bus stop ...

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Running to catch the bus can be dangerous.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least 10 steps away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's OK before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street to reach the bus stop, walk on the sidewalk or along the road. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver when crossing the street. And watch out for passing vehicles!
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Walk at least 10 steps away from the sides of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up, because the driver might not be able to see you.

On the bus ...

- Always sit fully in the seat and face forward.
- Never distract the driver.
- Never stand on a moving bus.
- Obey the driver.
- Speak in a low voice; no screaming or shouting.

Parents

- Dress students in bright, easily seen clothing, and use reflective markings on clothing, backpacks and book bags.
- Make sure students have backpacks or book bags to carry their things, so they don't endanger themselves recovering dropped items.
- Make sure students are at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Remind students of their responsibility for proper behavior on the bus so that the driver will not be distracted.

Bus Drivers

- Establish a positive relationship with your students.
- Double-check the side and front crossover mirrors for "all clear" before moving the bus.
- If distracted by actions on the bus, check the mirrors again before moving.
- Constantly watch and listen for anyone trying to alert you to a hazard.
- Report disruptive students to school officials.
- Notify school officials when students do not comply to safety rules.

Motorists

- Use extra caution when traveling in an area where you see school buses.
- Slow down and prepare to stop when a school has the amber lights flashing.
- Stop at least 20 feet from a school bus traveling in either direction when the red lights are flashing.

South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Office of Highway Safety



For more information on school bus safety,
visit us online at www.scdps.org/szs.