

A Parent's Guide for School Bus Safety

- Drive or walk your child around the area near the bus stop, ensuring that your student is familiar with the route and knows where to get off the bus. Point out landmarks that are easily recognized to help your student know which stop is theirs. (Note: On afternoon routes, students are not let off a bus on cul-de-sac streets until the bus has completely turned around and is on its way out of the cul-de-sac.)
- Make sure your child understands that they shouldn't get off the bus if they are uncertain about their bus stop. The child should tell the driver they aren't sure. The school bus will take the student back to the school and contact the parents. This is particularly important for younger school-aged students (grades K–3) who are more likely to “follow the crowd” off the bus. Children 8 years old or younger are required to have a parent at the bus stop.
- Is your child a bus rider or a car rider, or do they go to daycare? Routines are important. Following a routine from the first day helps the student and the driver become familiar with each other and the bus route.
- Plan, if possible, with a group of other parents and adults in your neighborhood to have an adult present each morning at the bus stop.
- Parents, get to know your bus driver and your bus driver will get to know you.
- Be visible at the bus stop by getting out of your car, or coming off your porch and standing at the bus stop. Use a flash light if dark, so you are seen.
- Be at your bus stop **5 minutes early** and only use your child's assigned stop.
- Encourage children to load and unload in an orderly line.
- Make sure hands are free and all your child's belongings are inside their bookbag.
- Teach your child to stay 12 feet from the street and never approach the bus unless it is completely stopped and the door is open.

- Teach your child never to step toward the bus until they look to be sure all the traffic has stopped in all directions and the driver has signaled it is safe to approach.
- Never assume that approaching cars will stop!
- Teach your child to look for traffic before exiting the bus when unloading. Children should then proceed in a straight line, in full view of the bus driver, directly to a safe location 12 feet away from the bus and the street. They should not retrieve the mail.
- If your child must cross the street to load or unload a bus, teach them to always look for moving traffic. Cars may not stop! Your child should always keep eye contact with the bus driver and watch for the driver's signal to cross and that ALL traffic has stopped.
- A child should never cross behind a bus or return to the bus after unloading.
- In the event that a child drops something near a bus advise her to gain the attention of the bus driver by waving their hands above their head from a safe distance, and to never attempt to retrieve the item without the full attention and instruction from the bus driver.
- A blowing bus horn means DANGER. Teach your child to look and find a safe place to go immediately.

Thank You,

Transportation

706-865-4720