

Bus Safety Training

Danger Zone and Emergency Exits:

1. Danger Zone—what is it? It is the area 10 feet away from the bus all the way around the bus
 - a. Stay out of the danger zone at all costs!
 - b. If you drop something in the danger zone, tell a teacher or tell the driver, do not go after it in the danger zone.
2. Safe crossing procedures: The stop arms on a bus signal that cars should stop for the bus. Since cars don't always obey the stop sign, we must be extra cautious and aware when loading/unloading the bus. Be aware, always look at the driver before you cross.
3. Emergency Exits on a school bus: How many emergency exits are there? There are 8 (4 window emergency exits, 2 roof hatches, the back door, the front door). Listen to the driver in the case of an emergency before reacting to the situation. In the case of most emergencies, the safest place for students is on the bus.

Safety:

1. The bus is the safest way to get to and from school.
 - a. The school bus transports 8 billion students per year, keeping 17 million cars off of the road each year.
 - b. Students are 70% more likely to get to school safely in a school bus.
2. Reasons the bus is safe:
 - a. The drivers study for a long time to be a bus driver and are highly trained. In addition, they receive ongoing training to maintain certifications to be a bus driver.
 - b. The bus is very safely manufactured. It is solid and strong due to being reinforced with side panels and rub rails. Buses are highly visible since they are yellow and they have lights to notify other traffic. There is a stop arm to alert other vehicles the bus is stopping and loading/unloading students. The bus seats are created to withstand force and protect students in the case of an accident also. In addition, each bus goes through annual state inspections to make sure they are operating properly.
 - c. The rules, regulations, and laws bus drivers and bus companies follow keep buses safe. Traffic laws like the stop arm, specific drop sites and highly regulated vehicles and procedures are important. Drivers are required to undergo ongoing training/evaluations, drug testing, background checks, and medical physicals. This is unique to bus transportation.

The Bus is Safe, but we all play a part in being safe. Every one of the bus rules are in place to keep riders and other vehicles safe.

Rules on the bus:

1. Respect and obey the bus driver at all times.
2. Cross ten (10) feet in front of the bus when crossing a roadway.

3. ONLY riders assigned to the bus can ride, students must be on time at their designated stops.
4. Do not damage the bus. Bus vandalism such as cutting/ripping seats is strictly prohibited.
5. Keep all your articles and school supplies in a backpack on your lap and keep the aisle clear at all times.
6. Make room for others needing a seat. Respect other students and their property at all times.
7. Keep your hands and head inside the bus. Windows open to halfway point only, with the driver's permission.
8. Remain seated facing forward at all times.
9. Absolutely no tampering with the bus radio, control equipment or exit doors.
10. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
11. Video or picture taking of any kind on the bus is strictly prohibited.
12. Weapons or dangerous objects i.e., skate boards, pets, glass, knives, etc. are not allowed on the bus.
13. No eating, drinking, gum chewing, smoking, tobacco use, or drugs on the bus.
14. No fighting, harassment, intimidation, or horseplay.
15. Do not ignite matches or start a fire.

It is important to remember that up to 77 students ride the bus and it can be very distracting and dangerous if any number of students misbehave. We all need to do our part to be quiet and respect others so that we can be safe. The driver has to focus on other vehicles, dropping students off, railroad tracks, kids running across the street...etc. it is dangerous if he/she has to keep looking in the mirror.

The school bus is the extension of the school day. Just like students have to follow the rules in school, students have to follow the rules on the bus. Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. If a student cannot safely ride the bus, they will not be able to ride the bus, because the safety of the other riders is very important.

The Bus Driver is your Friend:

1. The school bus driver is your friend, just like all of your great teachers are your friends and care a lot about you, so do school bus drivers. Talk to them, ask them questions, let them know how they can help you, because they all want to help you.
 - a. Example: if you miss your stop, don't be scared, tell the driver and he/she will take care of you.
 - b. If the driver calls your name, this doesn't mean you are in trouble, it could mean there is a message for you or someone could be looking for you.