



General School Bus Safety Rules

We care about you and want to keep you safe and healthy. Please become familiar with and follow these School Bus Safety rules. Not following these rules may cause you or someone you know and care about to get hurt. Please ask your school bus driver if you have any questions.



What you should do while waiting for the bus:

1. Be at your bus stop approximately five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
2. Stay at a safe distance from the curb on the sidewalk area. Do not wander into driveways or onto lawns. Do not sit on fences.
3. Do not play games in the street.
4. When the bus approaches, get in line. Line up parallel to the street away from the curb.
5. Stand clear of the bus until it has come to a complete stop. Do not push or shove while waiting. Let smaller children board first.
6. If you miss the bus, go straight home. Remember, your bus driver has a schedule to keep and if you are not at the bus stop, he cannot wait for you.
7. Parents should instruct their children on what to do if the bus is unable to pick them up, i.e.,
 - a. Where to go and wait (back home, to a friend's house, etc).
 - b. Whom to telephone (parents, school, or a friend).



What you should do while boarding the bus:

1. Always use the handrail
2. Go up the steps one at a time.
3. Avoid pushing and shoving.
4. Go directly to your seat. The bus will not move until all passengers are seated.
5. Regulations do not permit passengers to stand in a moving bus.



What you should do while on the bus:

1. Passengers are to remain seated while the bus is in motion.
2. Place books, parcels, and musical instruments on your lap. The bus aisle must be kept clear.
3. Loud talking, screaming, and unnecessary movement could distract the driver and create an unsafe condition.
4. Normal conversation is permitted, but vulgar or profane language is prohibited.
5. When stopped for railroad tracks, keep quiet so the driver may listen for the sound of approaching trains.
6. Do not change seats. Stay in the first seat selected or your assigned seat.
7. Arms, head and other parts of the body are to be kept inside the bus.
8. Throwing objects inside or out of the bus may cause an accident and is not allowed.
9. Chewing gum, drinking, or eating food or candy is not permitted.
10. Do not mark, cut, or scratch any part of the bus. Vandalism costs everyone.
11. The emergency door and exit controls shall be used by students **ONLY** during supervised drills or actual emergencies.



What you should do while getting off the bus:

1. Stay seated until the bus is completely stopped.
2. Use the handrail and take one step at a time when leaving the bus.
3. Pushing or crowding shows poor manners and could cause an accident.
4. Move away from the side of the bus immediately.
5. Go directly home and check in. Do not cut through neighbor's lawns or yards.
6. You must have a note signed by the principal to get off at a bus stop other than your regular stop.
7. If a dropped article rolls near or under the bus do not crawl or reach under the bus. Go to the door of the bus and tell the driver. She/he will help you retrieve the article.
8. Do not chase after or hang onto the bus as it is starting up.

Important words about getting off the bus: if you have to cross over traffic after getting off the bus follow your bus drivers instructions completely. This will include walking far enough away from the front of the bus, making eye contact with the driver, waiting for their signal to cross, looking both ways when you reach the side of the bus, crossing straight across without stopping and moving away from the street once you are on the other side. If you hear the driver honk the bus horn this means there is danger and you must go directly back to the curb where you started.

Note to parents and caregivers:

Our school bus drivers are highly trained professionals and we take pride in their abilities. Their dedication to safety is second to none. With your cooperation and assistance we can make every effort to ensure the safety of your children while they ride the bus to and from school. We ask that you review these rules with you children periodically to make sure they fully understand them.

"together we can make a difference, one mile at a time"



Utica National

Partnership for a better future