

School Buses & Motorists

Both have been part of the morning and afternoon landscape for five generations of school children.

Although yellow wasn't adopted as the school bus color until 1939, school buses have been around since 1915, about as long as the automobile.

School buses make frequent stops to load and unload students. It is the nature of their business.

16 million school bus stop-arm violations occur nationwide each school year putting children in danger.

Under Kansas law, the driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus stopped on the highway shall stop before reaching such school bus when there is in operation on the school bus the flashing red lights.

In an effort to keep are children safe we are asking all motorists to avoid distractions and to be alert and cautious around school buses, school bus stops and school zones and observe all Kansas laws.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

Even safer than riding in your own vehicle, riding on a school bus is the safest way for your child to travel to and from school.



School Bus Safety Facts

School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury.

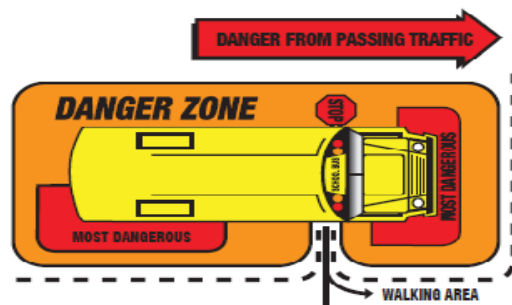
School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school.

School buses keep an annual estimated 17.3 million cars off roads surrounding schools each morning.

The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus.

Pedestrian fatalities (while loading and unloading school buses) account for approximately three times as many school bus-related fatalities, when compared to school bus occupant fatalities.

The loading and unloading area is called the “Danger Zone”



The “Danger Zone” is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (at least ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, at least ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver’s blind spot, and the area behind the bus).

Half of the pedestrian fatalities in school bus-related crashes are children between 5 and 7 years old.

Young children are most likely to be struck because they:

- ◆ Hurry to get on and off the bus.
- ◆ Act before they think and have little experience with traffic.
- ◆ Assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross the street.
- ◆ Don’t always stay within the bus driver’s sight.

School Bus Safety Rules

The bus driver and others cannot see you if you are standing too close to the bus. Stay out of the danger zone! Use 5 giant steps to estimate at least 10 feet.

If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER crawl under the bus to try and pick it up yourself!

While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.

Do not push or shove others.

Follow the instructions of your school bus driver. It is important to listen to your bus driver in case there are any special instructions for your bus ride.

Keep your head and arms inside the school bus at all times.

Keep the aisle and emergency door clear at all times.

Do not jump up and down, fight, bully or tease other passengers or make a lot of noise while riding the bus. These activities can bother your bus driver and he or she will not be able to give proper attention to driving.

When you get on or off the bus, look for the bus safety lights and make sure they are flashing.

Be alert to traffic. When you get on or off the bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.

When the driver says it is safe to cross the street, remember to CROSS IN FRONT of the bus.