

Stop on Red, Kids Ahead

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Test your knowledge: in which roadway scenarios is it illegal to pass a school bus with its stop-arm extended and red lights flashing? Are there any roadway scenarios it's acceptable? Illegal: two-lane roadways, two-lane roadways with shared left turn lane, four-lane roadway, and four-lane roadway with shared left turn lane. If you are in any of these scenarios, STOP when you see the red lights flashing, there are kids ahead. Acceptable: on a roadway separated by a median, oncoming traffic across the median may continue, but traffic approaching the bus from behind must stop.

It's the legal responsibility of drivers to stop for school buses when the lights flash red, but it's important for children to know safety measures, too. Have them stand five giant steps back from the curb (or about 10 ft) while waiting for the bus.

Parents, talk to both young children and teenagers about school bus safety, especially around back to school time. For children unloading, teach them to look to the right as they exit to look for cars passing illegally on the right (unfortunately it happens). For teenagers on the road, make sure they know which road scenarios require a stop - violating stop-arm law can result in hefty fees of \$420.

When drivers ignore bus safety laws to get where they're going on time, it puts children loading or unloading at risk. So STOP ON RED, there are kids ahead.

There's these really nice lights on school buses, and they aren't just for decoration! They serve a very important purpose: when they're yellow, be prepared to stop; when they're red, STOP. There are kids ahead, loading or unloading, and they deserve to make it to their destination, too.

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WWYD when approaching a school bus w/ stop arm out/red flashing lights? 2-lane road w/ or w/o left turn lane, both ways STOP • 4-lane road w/ or w/o left turn lane, both ways STOP • 4-lane road w/ median, traffic across median from bus continues, approaching behind STOP.

School buses are the safest form of transportation to school, but only if you, as a driver, heed the flashing lights and stop on red. There are kids ahead who are loading or unloading.

Here's a bus safety tip to share w/ children: there's a 10-foot danger zone around the bus where the driver may not see children crossing or stopping. It's helpful to signal for an okay from the driver when crossing the street in front of the bus.