

# Safety Message to Parents

School bus transportation is the safest form of land transportation. Statistics show it is at least 70 times safer than travelling to and from school by any other means.

However, we need your help in making it even safer. Please go over the safety messages below with your child. Make sure they understand these are very important and must be followed at all times.



Walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus

## **Safe Practices to Teach Your child**

- Be at the stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time.
- Never run after the bus. This is very dangerous and you will not be allowed to board. Make sure your child knows NEVER to run after the bus.
- Wait for the bus on the sidewalk, at least 10 feet, 5 big steps, away from the edge of the road.
- If you drop anything, do not pick it up. Tell the driver and ask for their help.
- Except when boarding, never go close to the bus. Stay at least 10 feet away – 5 big steps.
- Never go close to the front of the bus. The driver will not be able to see you.

## **If Your Child Has To Cross The Street - Safe Practices In The Morning**

- Wait on the side of the road, at least 10 feet, 5 big steps, from the edge of the roadway.
- After the bus has stopped, look at the driver.
- When the driver signals you to cross, walk to the edge of the roadway and look left, right and left again and if clear, walk directly across the street. Do not run.
- If you are unsure about any moving vehicle, stay where you are and wait until that vehicle has completely stopped.

## **If Your Child Has To Cross The Street - Safe Practices In The Afternoon**

- \* When you exit the bus, walk 10 feet (5 big steps) directly away from the bus.
- Turn left and walk to at least 10 feet (5 big steps) ahead of the front of the bus. If the bus has a crossing gate, you should be beyond the end of the crossing gate.
- Look at the driver. When the driver signals you to cross, walk to the edge of the bumper and stop.
- Now, look left, right and left again. If all clear, look back at the driver.
- The driver will signal you to complete the crossing. Walk directly across and do not run.



Stop at the edge of the bumper

Most school bus tragedies happen to children who cross the street. If your child has to cross the street, please make sure they follow these safe crossing procedures. Below are three tragedies where the parent's actions may have prevented them.

A parent watched their child cross the street every day, without stopping at the edge of the bumper. The parent did not enforce the correct crossing procedure. One day, a passing car hit their child.

When the driver signaled the child to cross, the child ran across the street jumping into mom's arms. Mom did not take any action. One day, a passing car hit the child as they ran across the street.

A child was late and ran after the bus encouraged by the parent. They slipped under the rear wheels and were killed.

Drawstrings on backpacks, jackets, sweatshirts and other clothing pose a danger to your child. These can get caught on bus handrails or doors. Remove all drawstrings or cut them off.