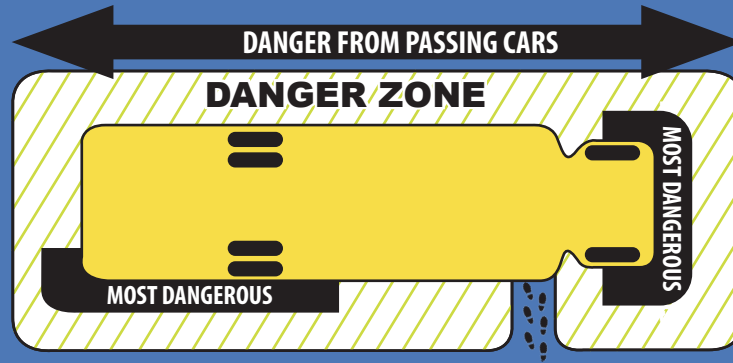


THE DANGER ZONE

The Danger Zone is the space 10 feet all around the bus. The school bus driver cannot see children and small objects in the Danger Zone.

Avoid the Danger Zone -- Children's deaths can easily occur when children reach under the bus to get something they dropped or circle back behind the bus to talk to friends. Such deaths involve a disregard for the Danger Zone. Keep 10 giant steps in front of the bus. If you drop something in the Danger Zone, don't go back to pick it up yourself. Tell the bus driver.



RULES OF THE ROAD

Motorists must obey Pennsylvania's rules in regard to stopped school buses or face serious penalties.

- Flashing amber lights are a pre-warning that the bus is preparing to stop. Motorists must prepare to stop as well.
- When the red lights are flashing and/or the stop arm is extended, the bus is stopped to load or unload children. Motorists must also stop -- at least 10 feet from the school bus. Motorists may not proceed until after the red lights stop flashing and the stop arm is withdrawn. Do not proceed until it is clear all children have reached a safe place.
- The only situation in which an approaching motorist may pass a school bus displaying flashing red lights is the following: when the motorist is approaching the bus from the front on a separate roadway on the opposite side of a highway that is clearly divided by physical barriers such as guiderails, concrete median barriers, a median strip, fencing or curbs. Motorists passing should do so only with caution.
- School buses equipped with a side stop signal arm enforcement system (stop arm camera) for the purpose of enforcing a violation of overtaking (not stopping) for a school bus. The penalty for violating this is a \$300 fine, which is only a financial penalty and no points are added to your driving record.
- If you fail to stop for a school bus, without a stop arm camera, you face the following criminal penalties:
 - An automatic 60 day suspension of your driver's license.
 - Five points on your driving record.
 - A \$285 fine.

NOTICE: This material is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as offering advice or making recommendations of any kind. Neither the Republican Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives nor any individual member thereof shall be responsible for any errors or omissions in the material contained in this document, or for the effect on such information by any subsequent amendment, passage, adoption, or repeal of regulations or legislation impacting the subject matter herein. Moreover, neither the Republican Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives nor any individual member thereof shall be responsible for the interpretation of any statutory provisions, administrative actions, or judicial decisions relative thereto. Any user of this document should seek private legal counsel before taking action in reliance upon the material

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PRIMER FOR PARENTS

1. Be sure to dress your child properly - warm clothes for cold days (the bus could be late) and bright clothes on dark, rainy days so the child is easily seen.
2. Be sure your child leaves the house early enough to get to the bus stop on time.
3. Be sure your child knows the safety rules if he or she misses the bus, if you're not home or if he or she wishes to get off at another stop other than his or her own. In the latter situation, the child must have a note from you to give to the school and to the bus driver.
4. Safe ridership habits begin at home and parents can be the best teachers. Go over this brochure with your child.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

With well-constructed buses and trained drivers, riding a school bus is very safe. Technology has improved the performance of these vehicles and new security features, such as surveillance cameras and monitors, aid in protecting students. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration rates school bus travel as one of the safest forms of travel available. Parents and students also have a role to play in ensuring a safe trip to and from school each day.

WAITING FOR THE BUS TO ARRIVE:

Getting children to and from school safely is a responsibility that everyone involved takes seriously. There are ways to make the trip a safe and positive one. Let's begin with the start of the journey.

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus. Stay in a pair or a group; do not wander away from the stop area.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop.
- When boarding the bus, be safe and use the handrail. Do not rush or run onto the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.

CONDUCT WHILE RIDING THE BUS:

The bus driver cares for your safety while you are riding. Please follow these tips and make the ride a pleasant one!

- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat. Never put your head, arms or hands out of the window.
- If there are seatbelts on the bus, please use them.
- Talk quietly; do not distract your school bus driver.
- If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train. Always obey your school bus driver's instructions so that he or she can make safe decisions.
- Never play with the emergency exits. Backpacks, band instruments, or sports equipment may not block the aisle or emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Keep your books and belongings with you; do not place them in the aisles.
- Allow the bus to come to a complete stop before getting out of your seat.

DEPARTING THE BUS

- When getting off the school bus, make sure that all drawstrings and other loose objects are secure so that they don't get caught on the handrail or the door. Use the handrail when going down the steps.
- Be aware — cross with care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so that the school bus driver can see you.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus. Instead, tell your parents or check with the driver the next day about anything you may have left behind on the bus.

PennDOT has more school bus information at
[pa.gov/agencies/dmv/driver-services/
school-bus-drivers/school-bus-safety](http://pa.gov/agencies/dmv/driver-services/school-bus-drivers/school-bus-safety)