

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY RULES

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The school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, each year many children are injured and several are killed in school bus incidents. Parents must to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

1. Rules for getting on and off the school bus

Getting on the school bus:

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.

Behavior on the bus:

- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed. - Never put head, arms or hands out of the window. - Keep aisles clear – books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit, using the hand rail.

Getting off the school bus:

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.

- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.

- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.

Correct way to cross the street:

- Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing.

- They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across.

- If students' vision is blocked by a parked car or other obstacle, they should move out to where drivers can see them and they can see other vehicles - then stop, and look left-right-left again.

2. School Bus Safety: Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-schoolers

Transportation of infants, toddlers and pre-school-aged children should be established with the mutual cooperation of parents, transportation providers and service providers. Pre-school-aged children who ride school buses include children with and without disabilities. Accordingly, transportation providers need to be knowledgeable and to develop skills to provide adequately for the safety of young children while being transported in school buses. Infants, toddlers and pre-school-aged children with special physical, cognitive or behavioral needs present new challenges and responsibilities for transportation providers.

These children may require a great deal of supervision during the time they are in the school bus. Some issues that must be addressed to assure safe transportation in the school bus include:

- physical handling;
- communication with young children;
- behavioral management;
- child safety seats, restraint systems, safety vests;
- wheelchairs and occupant securement systems;
- special equipment management;
- medically fragile and complex conditions;
- confidentiality;
- length of ride;
- personnel training;
- parental responsibility.

Because there are large numbers of children under the age of five who are transported on school buses, it is essential to recommend guidelines for child safety seats, occupant passenger restraints and securement systems.

School bus drivers and attendants should be trained in emergency procedures, which includes:

- A written evacuation plan and evacuation drills with the children they transport.
- The local emergency response system should know the response plans for school bus emergencies.

Parents must have clear communication with schools and care providers about transportation policies and procedures.

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BASIC WAYS OF REDUCING PEDESTRIAN TRAUMATISM

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An attempt of analysis of basic ways to decrease pedestrian traumatism has been taken. Each of the considered ways of solving this problem has an important role, but only an integrated approach can decrease road traffic accidents and soften their consequences.

The issue of road safety is still very acute, because a lot of people are killed in road accidents nowadays.

There are three main directions of solving this problem:

- Creation of designs and introduction of automobiles, which meet the requirements of external passive safety;
- Fulfillment of a number of measures on propagandistic and educational work among the participants of traffic;
- Improvement of road traffic organization.

Today the Association of Car Producers and the European Commission are worried about this problem, and they are fully determined to significantly reduce traumatism on roads by 2010. First of all, the producers must be committed to change the construction of car bumpers and hoods. New decisions aimed at pedestrians' safety are used in new models. Among them: