

School Bus Safety Tips

Safety tips for Children and Parents:

At the Bus Stop

- ✓ Stand at least six feet (three giant footsteps) from the approaching school bus while waiting at the bus stop.
- ✓ Wait in or near a location where the driver can see you while driving down the street. Try to avoid waiting in a house or car.
- ✓ Do not play in the street. Playing with balls or toys that roll into the street is also dangerous and can lead to crashes and fatalities.

Getting on and off the Bus

- ✓ If a child drops something while getting on and off the bus, they should never stop to pick it up. Instead, they should tell the school bus driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- ✓ Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus.
- ✓ If you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can become very excited to see their parent/guardian after school and rush across the street without stopping to look for oncoming traffic.
- ✓ Never walk behind a bus. Cross the street at the nearest cross walk and make sure to look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.

Safety tips for Motorists:

- ✓ When you're driving in neighborhoods with bus stops, schools and school zones, watch for children walking or bicycling to and from school.
- ✓ Slow down. Look for students walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks or crosswalks in the neighborhood.
- ✓ Remember, children are not aware of vehicle speeds and often misjudge when it is safe to cross the street when a vehicle is approaching.
- ✓ Learn and obey the school bus laws in Georgia. Obey the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of expected actions.
 - **Yellow** flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
 - **Red** flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped, and children are exiting or entering the bus. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Sources: National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA), American Traffic Solutions and National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)