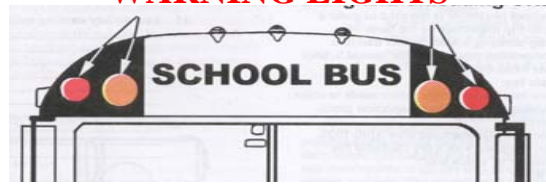


## WARNING LIGHTS

- ◆ Alternating flashing amber (yellow) lights are to be used to warn motorists that the bus is stopping to take on or to discharge passengers.
- ◆ Alternating flashing red lights are to be used to inform motorists that the bus is stopped on the roadway to take on or discharge passengers.
- ◆ **Stop arm shall be operated simultaneously with flashing red signal lights.**  
A white flashing strobe light, individually switched, may be used, when unfavorable atmospheric conditions or time of day limit visibility (i.e., fog, rain, snow, darkness).
- ◆ Four-way hazard lights shall be activated at railroad crossings and turn-arounds unless prohibited by local ordinance.
- ◆ Headlights should be actuated during operation of the school bus.



## CAUTION

*Sometimes a school bus driver must do a turn-around.*

- The bus will have its four-way hazard lights and backup lights on as it prepares to back into a side street to turn around.
- Motorists must use caution when they approach a bus in the process of completing a turn-around.

**USE CAUTION!**

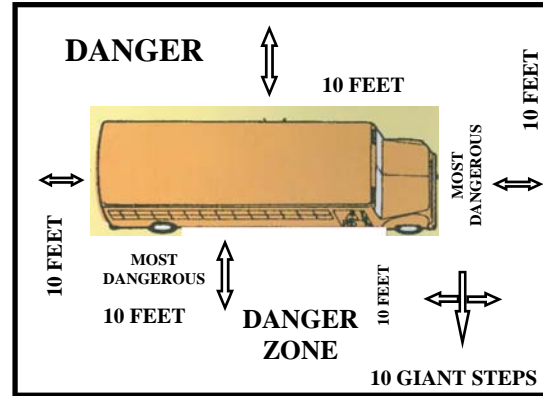


## WHERE IS THE

The **danger zone** for a school bus is the area 10 feet around the bus.

*The two most dangerous places are:*

- ◆ *Front of the bus*
- ◆ *Right rear tire area*



### WARNING:

*Please take the time to check your children's clothing and book bags to make sure they are safe.*

*Drawstrings and key chains may catch on objects on the bus and increase danger!*

Please talk to your child about the following safety rules:

- ◆ Avoid the danger zone around the bus.
- ◆ Don't try to pick up something dropped near the bus - the bus driver might not see you.
- ◆ Remember that some motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus.
- ◆ **Be careful** whenever getting on or off the bus.

## WHY IT TAKES SO LONG AT BUS STOPS



**SAFETY PROCEDURES  
ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW**

**THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN, AS THEY ARE TRANSPORTED  
TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS,  
IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY.**

At bus stops state law requires drivers to follow these procedures:

- ◆ Check mirrors for traffic conditions and apply brakes well in advance to warn traffic from the rear.
- ◆ Actuate warning lights 300 feet prior to stop.
- ◆ Stop bus at designated stop.
- ◆ Set parking brake.
- ◆ Place the gear shift lever into neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions to prevent the bus from lunging forward.
- ◆ Open service door to actuate the warning lights and place hand over horn to warn students of potential hazards.
- ◆ Give students directions to go to their *Designated Place of Safety* and stay there until the bus leaves or signal students to board the bus from their *Designated Place of Safety*.
- ◆ Shift the gear lever into the starting gear, only after counting and confirming the students are in their *Designated Place of Safety or safely in their seat*.
- ◆ Look to identify students and potential hazards in the danger zone, counting and checking the mirrors, before closing the door and canceling the warning lights.
- ◆ Close the door when all areas are clear. Door must be closed before the bus moves.
- ◆ Release the parking brake after closing the door.
- ◆ Recheck traffic in the right and left side mirrors prior to pulling away.

*Modification of these procedures may be necessary for preschool, kindergarten, and special needs students.*





**Motorists around school buses need to know the signals and the laws that concern school buses to help keep children safe:**

- ◆ Do not pass a school bus that has red alternating flashing lights on. This is the signal that the bus is stopped to load or unload children. Traffic should not move until the bus resumes motion or the driver signals traffic to proceed.
- ◆ When a bus has alternating flashing amber (yellow) lights on, it is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Be ready to stop and watch for children in the roadway.

**Parents ... are very important in helping keep children safe on the school bus. Here are some ways in which parents can help:**

- ◆ Review the safety rules with children. Help them to understand why each rule is important.
- ◆ Dress children in light colored clothing or jackets on dark mornings.
- ◆ Help children to be ready at the stop before their bus arrives.
- ◆ Take turns supervising bus stops for smaller children.

**Bus drivers...help to keep children safe in a number of ways:**

- ◆ Drivers watch surrounding traffic closely to keep school children safe.
- ◆ Drivers will signal to children that need to cross the street only when traffic has stopped.
- ◆ In case an emergency vehicle approaches while loading or unloading, the driver will get the children to a place of safety until the emergency vehicle passes.

### Cell phone use, texting and other hand held electronic devices: (3301-83-20)

(M) Except in cases of extreme emergency, cellular telephones, including hands-free and wireless devices, or other portable communication devices shall not be used by the driver while the school bus is in motion or while the driver is supervising the loading or unloading of students.

Students should also be advised by parents, teachers and bus drivers not to use cell phones or electronic devices when loading or unloading or when they may become a distraction to their own or others' safety.

Students need to remain free of distractions when crossing the street or waiting for the bus to arrive where traffic could be a hazard.

### Ohio Law: 3301-83-13 School bus stops

#### (B) School bus stop location

- (1) Pupils in grades kindergarten through eight may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a designated bus stop.
- (3) School bus stops shall be established on the residence side of all four-lane highways and on the residence side of other roadways posing potential hazards to students as determined by school bus owners.
- (5) Each pupil shall be assigned and required to use a specific school bus stop except in unusual circumstances as approved by the school bus owner or designee.
- (6) **Each pupil shall be assigned a residence side designated place of safety. Driver must account for each pupil at designated place of safety before leaving. Pupils are not to proceed to their residence until the school bus has departed.**

*Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules – September 2008*



### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN APPROACHING ANY SCHOOL BUS THAT IS STOPPED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OR DISCHARGING SCHOOL CHILDREN?

- ◆ If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has fewer than four lanes, all traffic proceeding in either direction must stop.
- ◆ If a bus is stopped on a street or road that has four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.
- ◆ You must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.

*If you fail to stop for a school bus, your error will not go unnoticed. Bus drivers will report the license plate number of any vehicle that fails to comply with the law to a law enforcement agency, and an investigation will be conducted to identify the driver for enforcement purposes.*

**PENALTIES FOR NOT OBEYING THESE RULES COULD COST YOU UP TO \$500 AND A MAXIMUM 1-YEAR SUSPENSION OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE .**

### DEDICATED TO PROVIDING INSTRUCTION FOR SAFELY TRANSPORTING OUR MOST PRECIOUS CARGO, OUR CHILDREN

Pete Japikse, Associate Director,  
**Ohio Department of Education**  
Pupil Transportation

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*Design layout provided courtesy of Medina County Schools' ESC.*

# TRANSPORTING OUR MOST PRECIOUS CARGO, OUR CHILDREN!



**School bus safety is a team effort.**

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**Nothing is more precious than a child's life.**