

Safety Reminders and Tips for Drivers

Mistakes made behind the wheel can mean the difference between life, death, or severe injury. General rule of thumb: Slow down and obey the traffic signs. If a school bus is present, expect to see a child and be prepared to stop. Follow these safety reminders and tips to keep school children safe at the bus stop:

- 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.
- Motorists may begin moving only when the red flashing lights have turned off, the stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins to move.
- Never pass on the right side of the bus, where children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results.
- Slow Down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.
- Don't drive distracted. Be alert. Children arriving or departing the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Watch for young people who may be distracted and not paying attention to the traffic around them.

Safety Tips for Parents and Caregivers

Parents and caregivers rely on drivers to follow the law, but it's also important to teach your child to practice safe bus stop behaviors. These safety tips will help them stay safe around the school bus:

- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Be sure the bus driver can always see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Before crossing the street, stop at the front edge of the bus and look left-right-left before crossing.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.

Let's work together to keep our children safe as they wait to ride the bus to and from school. Slow down and obey the signs. For more information about school bus stop safety, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety#the-topic-bus-stop-safety.