



Did You Know?

Facts to learn and share:

- The National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Transportation and other authorities agree that **school buses are the safest form of transportation** for getting children to and from school.
- Some **475,000 school buses carry 25 million children** — more than half of America's schoolchildren — each day, rarely with any serious accident.
- **Safety features** including the color and size of school buses, height, reinforced sides, flashing red lights, cross view mirrors, and crossing and stop sign arms **ensure children are protected and secure on and off the bus.**
- **School bus drivers are highly trained professionals** who have your child's safety in mind. They receive **specialized training** in student behavior management, loading and unloading, security and emergency medical procedures.
- **Drivers participate in** pre-employment and random **drug/alcohol testing**, as well as frequent **driving record checks**, and submit to **background checks** and periodic **medical exams** to keep their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a School Bus Endorsement.
- The **school bus industry operates** by a set of **safety, security, health and driver qualification guidelines** that meet, and in some cases exceed, federal and state laws, and ensure that school buses are the safest mode of transportation for our nation's schoolchildren.

Safety tips for students:

- Be alert to traffic. Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- Make eye contact with the bus driver, and wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- Before leaving the sidewalk, look for the flashing red lights.
- Never go near or under the bus to retrieve something you've dropped.

Safety tips for parents:

- Have your child ride the school bus to and from school instead of driving or riding with teenage passengers.
- Review the safety tips with your child regularly.
- Get to know the parents of other riders. You will learn about the other children who are riding along with your child.
- Team with other parents to get involved and monitor bus stops. Voice concerns immediately to your school district.
- Attend "back to school" nights and tour a school bus.
- Get to know your child's bus driver. He or she is a trained professional who sees your child every day.
- Keep phone numbers handy in case the bus is delayed or in the event of an emergency.

