

BACK TO SCHOOL



Keeping School Bus Drivers & Passengers Safe

While children enjoy the last days of summer, parents are likely beginning to think about the coming school year. This usually means stocking up on school supplies and figuring out transportation.

School buses remain the safest mode of transportation for children. According to the American School Bus Council, students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely in a school bus instead of by car. This is great news for parents though they should also consider the school bus drivers who take on the responsibility for keeping students safe.



Did you know?

- Since 2007, there has been an increase of injuries to school bus drivers by nearly 33% while on the job.^{1,2}
- Accidents involving school buses take place most frequently at the beginning (September) and at the end (June) of the school year.^{3,4,5}
- On average, school bus accidents caused by speeding happen most in May and November (more than a third of accidents during these months involve one vehicle going over the speed limit).^{3,4,5}
- 87% of accidents involving a school bus were caused by another vehicle; 40% involved a vehicle rear-ending a stopped or slowing school bus, and 20% involved a driver t-boning the bus at an intersection.³

If you are driving around a school bus, or are in a school zone, remember to follow school bus safety rules and the guidelines of your school district. In general:

- Be extra attentive around buses, particularly during the beginning and end of the school year, when most accidents happen
- **SLOW DOWN** - drive no more than 25MPH near school buses or bus stops. Some school zones may dictate a lower speed limit.
- If you are behind a school bus, stay a safe distance away (~3 seconds behind). Know your state's laws since they differ from region to region.
- Never pass a stopped bus from behind, or from either direction on an undivided road.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop. Check your state's specific guidelines.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.

By staying alert and aware of school buses, we can help school bus drivers keep themselves – as well as their passengers, safe while on the road.



1. Injuries – National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2007-2015). Traffic Safety Facts, 2007-2015 editions. Washington, DC: NHTSA.
2. Injury data for 2016 are NSC tabulations of the NHTSA Crash Report Sampling System. School bus transportation data accessed Oct. 12, 2018, from American School Bus Councils.
3. FARS database, 2017 accident data Deaths for 2007-2015 – National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2017). Traffic Safety Facts 2006-2015 Data – School Transportation-Related Crashes (DOT HS 811 746). Washington, DC: NHTSA.
4. Fatality data for 2016 and 2017 deaths are NSC tabulations of Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data.
5. Injury data for 2016 are NSC tabulations of the NHTSA Crash Report Sampling System. School bus transportation data accessed Oct. 12, 2018, from American School Bus Councils.