

DRIVERS:

WHEN THE SCHOOL BUS STOPS...

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation for school children. This includes all ages, from pre-k through high school.

Every day, approximately 500,000 school buses transport more than 23 million students to and from school. However, each year, nationally, about 24 school-aged children are killed in school transportation-related traffic crashes.

Through hands-on presentations and videos, **Traffic Safety Community Educators** from the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education are out in the community teaching the importance of School Bus Safety.

Tips for Drivers:

- Watch for children walking to and from the bus stop, as well as standing at the bus stop.
- Yellow flashing lights on a school bus indicate that a bus is preparing to stop. **Do not try to pass the bus! Begin slowing and prepare to stop your vehicle.**
- Red flashing lights indicate that a bus has stopped to load or unload children. **Stop your car and wait for the bus lights to stop flashing before moving your vehicle.** Passing a school bus with red lights flashing is a moving violation, in most states, subject to points and fines.
- Oncoming vehicles, separated by a physical barrier in the road, do not have to stop for buses.

To learn more about school bus safety or to schedule a presentation by a **Traffic Safety Community Educator**, visit AAA.com/Foundation.



The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt, charitable organization dedicated to educating, training, and raising the level of traffic and travel safety awareness for all. Our Foundation is funded by donations from AAA Members and the public. For more information on our programs, events, or to make a donation, visit AAA.com/Foundation.

SCHOOL BUS TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Riding a school bus is a safe way to get to and from school. Listen to your school bus driver. The driver is in charge of the bus and riders. The AAA School Safety Patrol also helps keep you safe.



At the Bus Stop:

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Remain orderly and pay attention to traffic—this is no place to play.
- Obey the School Safety Patrol, Crossing Guard, Officer, or adult.
- Stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.

Entering and Exiting the Bus:

- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before stepping onto or off the bus.
- Be careful that clothing and book bags do not get caught in doors or between students.
- If you must cross the road to enter or after exiting the bus, walk in front of the bus. **Never walk behind the bus.**
- Stop at the edge of the bus and look left-right before crossing.
- Walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead.
- Be sure the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Tell the bus driver if you drop something beside the bus. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.
- **Be alert to all traffic.**

On the Bus:

- Take your seat immediately.
- Always sit fully in the seat and face forward.
- Obey the Bus Driver, School Safety Patrol, or adults on the bus.
- DO NOT distract the bus driver.
- Never stand on a moving bus.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.
- Speak in low voices.
- Never stick anything out of the window—arms, legs, head, book bags, etc.

