



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

It's Everyone's Responsibility



THE FACTS

School buses are one of the **SAFEST MODES OF TRANSPORTATION**, but illegal school bus passing is a serious threat to children and their caretakers. NHTSA is sharing this information to help raise awareness about this very real danger.

ILLEGAL SCHOOL BUS PASSING



IT IS ILLEGAL IN EVERY STATE to pass a school bus while the stop-arm is extended and the red lights are flashing.

Failing to stop could result in injury or death to child pedestrians or their caretakers.

Drivers must always come to a complete stop when the stop-arm is out and the red lights are flashing.



REMEMBER

- Obey all traffic signs and signals. More injuries and fatalities occur outside of or near a school bus because a motorist has failed to obey the stop-arm warning or failed to follow local traffic laws.
- Although school buses are the safest way to transport children, fatalities still happen. This is why it is critical that drivers follow all driving laws.

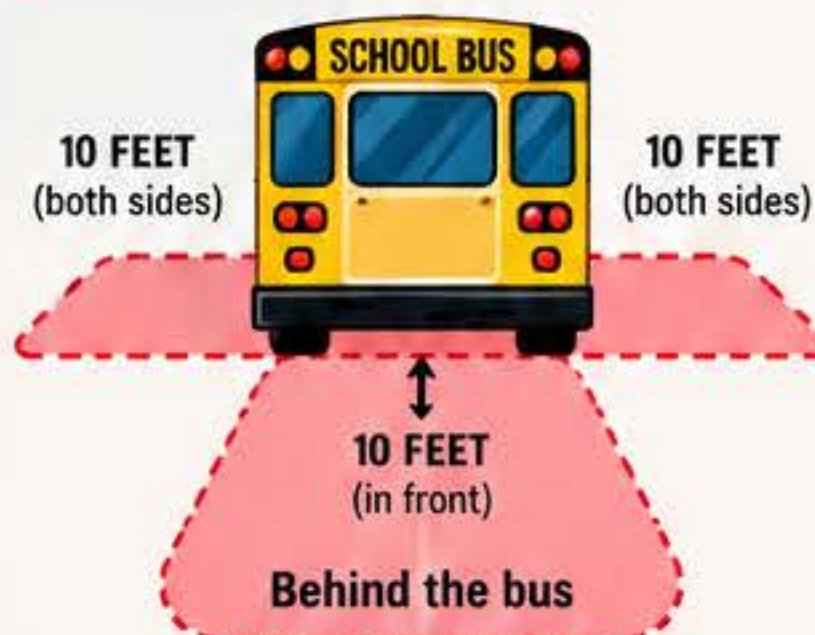
POTENTIAL CHARGES



A driver in a school-bus-related crash could be charged with one of the following:

- A violation for passing a stopped school bus
- A related factor of passing a school bus when prohibited by posted signs, pavement markings, or school bus displaying warning not to pass, and the crash was school-bus-related.

THE DANGER ZONE



The school bus loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone." These areas are where a child may not be seen by the bus driver and are the most dangerous.



THE MOST DANGEROUS PART OF THE RIDE



Getting on and off the school bus.



YOUNG CHILDREN ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE STRUCK BECAUSE THEY:

- Hurry to get on and off the bus
- Act before they think and have little experience with traffic
- Assume motorists will see them and wait for them to cross the street



SAFETY REMINDERS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

- ✓ Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.
- ✓ 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 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.
- ✓ Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus.
- ✓ Be sure the bus driver can always see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- ✓ Before crossing the street, stop and look left-right-left before crossing.



SAFETY REMINDERS FOR MOTORISTS

- ✓ The overall best practice is to "always stop if there's a school bus."
- ✓ Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle.
- ✓ You may begin moving only when the red flashing lights are 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.
- ✓ The greatest risk to a child isn't riding a school bus, but approaching or leaving one. That's why, as a vehicle driver, it is especially important to pay attention. Students' lives are on the line.
- ✓ 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 for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- ✓ Watch out for young people who may be distracted and not paying attention to the traffic around them.

Stop. Look. Save Lives. ♥



For more information on illegal school bus passing, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/school-bus-safety/reducing-illegal-passing-school-buses>.

