



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Preparing your kindergarten child to ride the school bus

Riding the school bus is a new and exciting experience for children entering kindergarten. This fact sheet will help you prepare your child for a safe ride on the school bus.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Kindergarten students are picked up and delivered at assigned bus stops (not necessarily at your home)
- If you live in a subdivision, apartment complex, or on a dead end street where the bus is unable to pick up your child, you are responsible for bringing your child to the bus stop. Only buses carrying special needs students are permitted in cul-de-sacs.
- Your child will be riding to school with students in pre-school through fifth grade

AT THE BUS STOP:

Families are solely responsible for the safety and supervision of their children to and from the designated bus stop and while students wait for the bus.

Parents or guardians of kindergarten children shall meet and receive their children at the bus stop. Children not met by their parent or guardian will be returned to their school building.

SPECIAL SAFETY PROCEDURES:

The following safeguards will assist kindergarten students during the first few weeks of school:

Name tags

The school will issue name tags to kindergarten students identifying their school, bus number, and address. This ensures children get off the bus at the right location. Please make sure your child wears his or her name tag during the first few weeks of school.

Bus numbers

Your child will be assigned a bus number. These numbers are found on all sides of the school bus. If your child is assigned two different buses, for example Bus A picks up in the morning and Bus B drops off in the afternoon, please indicate this on the child's name tag. This will help make certain your child gets to the correct location safely.

Bus stops

During the first few weeks of school, bus drivers will be helping the children learn where their bus stop is located. Your child will then be responsible for remembering when and where they get off of the bus as the school year progresses.

Safety training

Your child will be learning school bus safety during the first few weeks of school. The bus drivers will spend time teaching children how to be safe in and around the school bus. It is important the information they learn be used throughout the entire school year.

TIPS TO HELP MAKE YOUR CHILD'S BUS RIDE SAFE:

You can help keep your child safe on the bus by sharing the following tips with them:

At the bus stop

- Stay back from the road – at least 20 giant steps
- Wait quietly in line when getting on and off the bus
- Stay back until the bus stops – the driver will give a hand signal when it is safe to approach the bus
- Get on and off the bus one at a time, no pushing or shoving
- If your child will be crossing the street to get on or off the bus, the driver will teach the child to watch for a hand signal before crossing the street
- Before crossing the street, look both ways for traffic and other potential hazards

Designated Place of Safety "DPOS"

- Your child will be taught to wait at a **Designated Place of Safety or "DPOS."** The purpose of the place of safety is so the driver can account for all children outside of the bus. The place of safety will be assigned by the bus driver. The Ohio Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rule (3301-83-13) states: *The driver must count the students as they exit the bus and see them to their designated place of safety on the residence side of the road where they must remain until the bus leaves the stop. Only after counting the students may the driver begin to leave the bus stop. After the bus leaves the stop location, the students may continue to their residence.*

On the bus

- Sit properly in the seat
- Talk quietly
- Stay in the seat – never stand or move from seat to seat when the bus is moving
- Do not throw objects around inside the bus
- Obey the bus driver

When leaving the bus

- Stay out of the **Danger Zone** – the area 10 feet all around the bus that is the most dangerous
- Wait for the bus drivers hand signal if crossing the street
- Look in all directions before crossing the street and stop at the edge of the bus to check for traffic
- Use eyes and ears, look and listen for dangers
- Walk – never run
- Wait at the designated place of safety until the bus leaves the stop

Information children should learn

- Their name, address, and telephone number
- Teacher's name
- Bus driver's name and bus number

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- If your child misses his or her bus please do not attempt to chase the bus. It is extremely dangerous for a child to run after a moving school bus. Also, parents should not follow the bus and let a child out of their vehicle in an attempt to board the bus. Please call the transportation department at (937) 382-2357 and arrange to meet the bus at a specific location.
- Riding a school bus for the first time can be very overwhelming to a child. Since infancy children have been buckled into a car or booster seat. Ohio law does not mandate seat belts on large school buses; therefore, your child will not be wearing a seat belt while riding the bus. School buses have the highest safety standards of any vehicle on the road. Children are very safe inside the school bus due to the design of the bus as well as the padded seats.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AFFECTS BUS SAFETY:

The behavior of each student on the bus directly affects the safety of others. The bus driver reports incidents of poor behavior on the bus in writing to the school principal. Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the principal may issue a warning to the student, speak to the parents, suspend bus privileges, or take other disciplinary action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about busing contact the school principal or the Transportation Department at:

Wilmington City Schools Transportation
341 S. Nelson Avenue
Wilmington, OH 45177
937-382-2357