



# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY BEST PRACTICES

### Stop for School Buses

Many students rely on school buses to get them to and from school safely. Did you know that school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they're designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries, and in every state, stop-arm laws exist to protect children from other motorists.

### If Driving, Remember These Simple Rules

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. You must stop your car and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving, before you can start driving again.
- Even when lights aren't flashing, watch for children, particularly in the morning or mid-afternoon, around school arrival and dismissal times. Be alert as you back out of a driveway, or drive through a neighborhood, school zone, or bus stop.

### Parents, Talk Bus Safety with Your Children

Children should arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Teach them to play it **SAFE**:

- Stay at least 10 feet – 5 giant steps – away from the curb.
- Always wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver signals for you to board.
- Face forward after finding a seat on the bus.
- Exit the bus after it stops and look left-right-left for cars before crossing a street.

Additional resources can be found at the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: School Bus Safety](#).