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School Bus Safety:

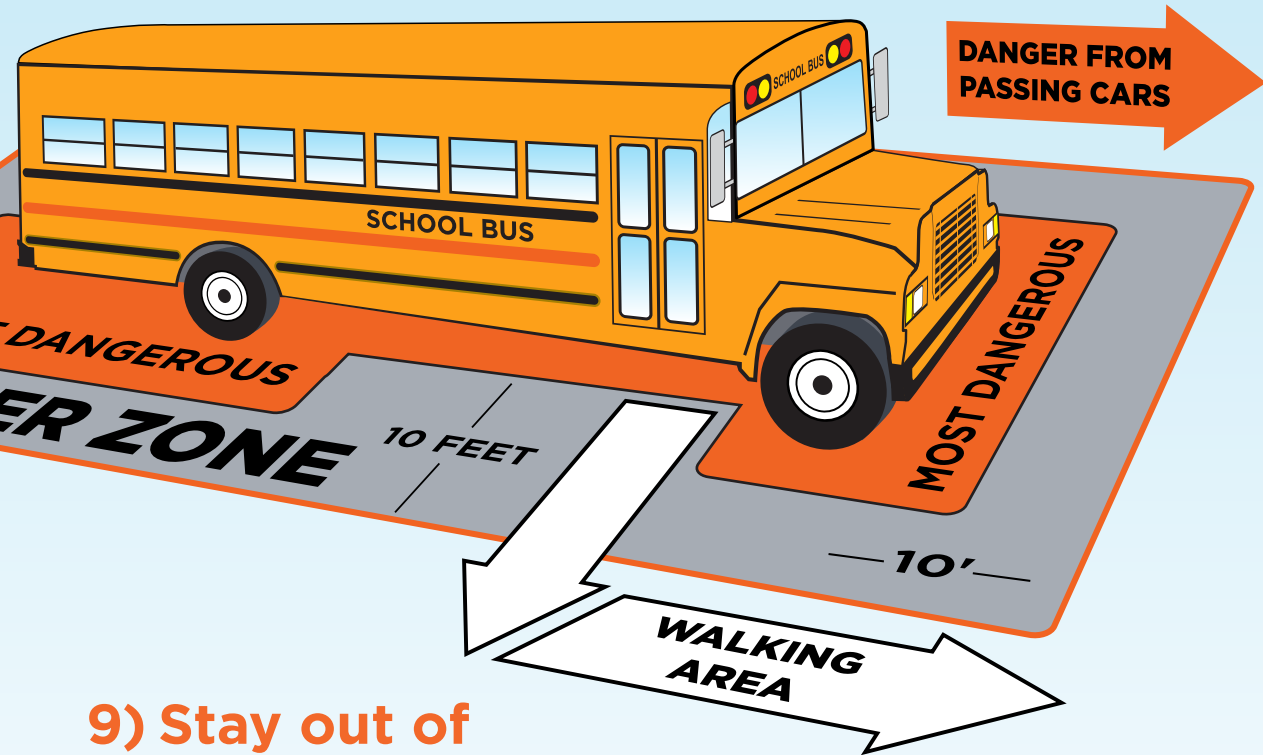
Tips for kids and parents.



Tips for Kids

- 1) **Be on time.** Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes early. If you miss the bus, never run next to or in front of it to get the driver's attention.
- 2) **Watch out for traffic.** Do not use electronic devices that can distract your eyes and/or ears while walking to the bus stop. While waiting for the bus, stay a safe distance from the street and do not push others in line.
- 3) **Line up.** Wait for the bus to stop completely and the door to be open before you move from the curb or sidewalk. Walk in a single line and use the handrail as you climb on the bus. Be sure to stay clear of the wheels at all times.
- 4) **Find a seat.** Quickly find a seat, keep the aisles clear and face forward.
- 5) **Stay in your seat.** Remain seated and inside the vehicle at all times. Never throw things or put arms or other objects outside the window.
- 6) **Respect the bus driver.** Always listen to your driver's instructions, and talk quietly during the ride. Yelling and loud voices can distract drivers, and they need to focus on the road to keep you safe.
- 7) **Be aware of the emergency exits.** Note where the emergency exits are located, but never touch them unless there's an actual emergency.
- 8) **Exit with care.** Wait for the bus to stop completely before leaving your seat. Exit in a single line and use the handrail to help you step out of the bus.





9) Stay out of the “Danger Zone.”

As you step off the bus, take 5 giant steps away from the door. If you have to cross the street, always stay at least 10 feet in front of the bus. If you can't see the bus driver, the bus driver can't see you, so eye contact is important. Always look both ways before crossing and never cross behind the bus.

10) Do not return to the bus. If you leave a jacket, book or other item on the bus, never run back to get it. Tell your parents when you get home. If you drop something near or under the bus, wait until it pulls away and no other traffic is coming; only then should you pick up the item.





Tips for Parents

- 1) Secure all belongings.** Check your child's bag and clothing for any loose strings, belts, keychains or other items that might catch on the handrail or get stuck in the door. Backpacks should fit snugly to help avoid snagging on objects and injuring your child.
- 2) Meet the driver.** Make it a point to meet the bus driver and inform him or her if you have any concerns. It's also helpful to have any allergy, medication and emergency contact information easily available in your child's bag.
- 3) Get involved.** Find out if your child's school has any bus safety programs. If not, urge school administrators to develop one.
- 4) Help your child stand out.** For children who meet the bus during darker hours of the day, outfit them in jackets, backpacks, sneakers and other items with reflective strips or surfaces so they are easily seen. But remember, yellow items can blend in with the bus, so other bright colors would be better.
- 5) Tell your child not to worry about items left behind.** When a child leaves an item on the bus—or drops something near or under the bus while stepping off—the first reaction may be to try and get it right away. Because the driver may not notice a child returning to the bus, assure your son or daughter that it's okay to retrieve such items later.

Nationwide is pleased to provide you with these School Bus Safety Tips.