



## KIDS, the SCHOOL BUS, and YOU

For a million students in Ohio, the school day begins and ends with a trip on the school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching and leaving the bus. Before children go back to school it is essential that adults and children know the traffic safety rules.

### DRIVERS:

- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the streets if there are no sidewalks. Watch out for those young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws and “flashing signal light system” that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:

Yellow flashing warning lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. These will be activated about 300 ft. before the stop. Motorists should slow down and prepare to STOP.

Red flashing warning lights and extended stop arm indicates the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off the bus. Motorists must stop their vehicle at least 10 feet away from the bus and remain stopped until lights are cancelled and the bus resumes motion.

### STUDENTS:

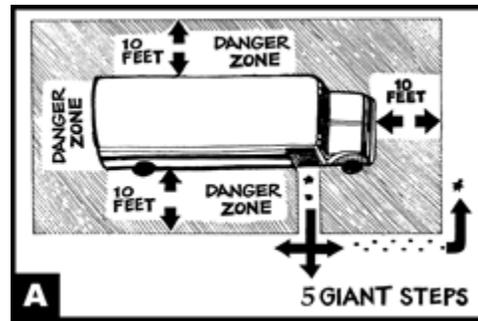
- Get to your designated spot of safety (bus stop) at least **5** minutes **before** the bus is to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, be at least 10 feet away from the road edge.
- Wait until the bus stops, the driver gives the hand signal that it is ok to approach the bus.
- If you must cross the street, cross at least 10 feet **in front** of the bus. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the driver. Wait for the driver’s hand signal to cross.
- **Never** walk behind the bus.
- **Never** chase the bus if you are late.
- If you drop something outside the bus, never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.
- Use the handrail to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps do not get caught in the handrail or door.

### PARENTS:

- The first days of school are exciting and filled with anxiousness, especially for the young students. Please teach your child these common sense practices, be patient, and wait for the bus driver’s hand signal to insure safety while entering or exiting the bus.

## THE DANGER ZONE:

The danger zone is an area around the bus where children are in the most danger of being hurt or hit. Children must stay at least ten feet away from the bus and never go behind it. Crossing always in front, waiting for the bus driver's hand signal to cross, will insure the most safety



## THE DESIGNATED PLACE OF SAFETY AND THE “HAND SIGNAL”

The ‘designated place of safety’ is a spot the bus driver will pick out, at least ten feet from the road edge, where the student will wait at for pick-up and goes to at drop-off. The student shall be at their ‘designated spot’ at least 5 minutes **BEFORE** the bus arrives for pick up. For those crossing the road, the driver will use a raised hand in the window, and when lights activated and traffic checked, will drop the hand straight down, indicating to the student it is safe to cross in front of the bus and board.

## WHY IT TAKES SO LONG AT THE RAILROAD TRACKS:

It is law that all school buses stop at railroad tracks in the State of Ohio. The process for stopping may appear lengthy, but the up most safety procedure must be followed to prevent a disastrous accident. Approaching the tracks, the bus driver alerts the students and requests silence. The 4-way flashers are activated to alert motorists the bus is stopping. The front of the bus must stop between 15 and 50 feet from the first rail and visibility must be 1000 feet up/down the track. The driver checks his mirrors, stops, sets the brake, takes the bus out of gear, turns off all accessories, opens the door and driver's window. He must then visually check and listen for approaching train traffic **TWICE**. If all is clear, the driver puts the bus in gear, checks traffic with the mirrors, shuts the door, releases the brake and continues on.

Should the bus come up to railroad lights that are activated, yet no train is seen on the tracks, only a police officer or authority from the railroad is authorized to cross the bus, so unless the bus is in a position where it may turn around, it has to wait.

Statistics show riding the ‘yellow bus’ is the safest mode of transportation for our children to and from school. Understanding the procedures of pick-up and drop-off of students and at the railroad tracks, by both students and adults will assure we are providing the safest environment possible while transporting.

**Jefferson Area Local Schools bus routes will be displayed on the school doors and on the schools website: [www.jefferson.K12.oh.us](http://www.jefferson.K12.oh.us) beginning Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.  
The transportation office hours are 6am-5pm. Phone (440)576-5732**