

ERIC G. LAMBERT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PROCEDURES

Introduction

Research conducted by Transport Canada shows that school bus travel is actually one of the safest modes of transportation. Riding in a school bus is 16 times safer than traveling in a family car. However, accidents can and do occur. The most common injuries involving a school bus include students being hit by their own bus, being hit by another oncoming vehicle, not getting on the bus properly, not riding on the bus properly and not leaving the bus safely.

Equipment Required

Every school bus must be equipped with the following features and equipment in order to be certified acceptable for driving:

- High-back padded seats – close seating
- Be coloured a bright yellow color
- Raised floor
- Shatter-proof glass
- Reinforced sides
- Flashing upper lights
- Stop Arm
- Crossing Arm
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit

Rules for Waiting and Getting on the Bus Safely

1. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather.
2. Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus.
3. Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
4. Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the danger zone.
5. When the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop before approaching it and getting on.
6. Hold the rails as you get on the bus. Don't push or shove. Remember that the steps may be slippery, especially in winter.

Rules for Safe School Bus Riding

1. Take your seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times. Fasten your seatbelt.
2. Hold bags and parcels in your lap. Do not stick your feet into the aisle; someone might trip.
3. Keep your head and arms – everything – inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around the bus.
4. Talk quietly. Do not distract the driver. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely.
5. Save snacks for snack time at school or till you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump.
6. No fighting, shouting, or playing in and around the bus.
7. Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

Rules for Leaving the Bus Safely

1. When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus.
2. To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps (three meters). Cross only when the driver gives a signal. Cross the street in single file.
3. If you drop something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver or other adult.
4. If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
5. Be familiar with the rules for emergencies.

Rules for Emergencies

1. In an emergency, students must immediately follow all the driver's instructions.
2. If necessary, the driver will contact his supervisor for help.
3. If necessary to evacuate the bus, do so quickly and quietly with no pushing or running. When outside the bus, move together to a safe area away from the vehicle. Stay together and wait for further instructions from the driver.