

# School Bus Safety Rules and Consequences

The following rules have a potential consequence (if not followed) of **the school bus driver not seeing the student and placing them in danger of being hit by the school bus:**

- Arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to come. Do not be running late and do not try to get on the bus as it starts to move.
- Have all items in your book bag before you leave home so you do not drop anything.
- Keep electronics packed away as you are boarding.
- NEVER chase after the bus.
- NEVER walk to another bus stop.
- NEVER allow your parents to drive you to another bus stop.
- Wait in an orderly group. Form an orderly line as the bus approaches, with the 1<sup>st</sup> student in line standing 12 feet away from the road.
- When you are getting on the bus and have to cross the road:
  - Cross 12 feet in front of the bus.
  - Make sure you can see the driver.
- If you drop something, leave it and move to a point out of the Danger Zone. Do not pick it up without getting the attention of and instruction from the bus driver.
- Always stay away from the front and rear bus tires.
- When getting off the bus, keep cell phones and electronics packed away.
- When you are getting off the bus and have to cross the road:
  - Walk straight away from the right front of the bus, in the bus driver's full view.
  - Always be able to see the bus driver (so they can see you).
- Anytime you are getting off the bus, make sure book bag straps, purses, clothing drawstrings, etc. do not get caught on the handrail or in the door.
- When unloading at school:
  - Have all belongings inside book bag
  - Walk (don't run) straight towards the school.
  - Stay away from the bus, so your driver can see you.
  - Keep walking until you get out of the danger zone, 12 feet away from the bus.
- When loading at school:
  - Walk straight towards the bus door and be sure your driver can see you.
  - Stay away from the front and rear bus tires and board the bus promptly.
  - Never chase after a moving bus. Once the buses start moving – you should stop moving.

The following rules have a potential consequence (if not followed) of **the student being hit by a passing car:**

- Wait at the bus stop in a safe place, 12 feet away from the road.
- Stay on your side of the road until the bus comes.
- Keep electronic equipment packed away when preparing to board. Never use an electronic device or wear ear buds/headphones when boarding. You MUST be able to hear!
- When getting on the bus, always look for moving cars.
- When the danger signal (blowing of the bus horn) is given, look for the danger of passing cars that do not stop.
- If you DO have to cross the road to GET ON the bus:
  - Wait for the bus to stop and for the driver's signal for when it is safe to cross from where you are standing.
  - Stop at the edge of the road and look both ways to be sure that any moving cars come to a stop.
  - Look both ways for moving cars while walking straight across the road.
- When going home wait in the bus aisle for the driver to tell you it is OK to begin to leave the bus.
- Never operate cell phones or use electronic devices when exiting the bus.
- Never wear ear buds or headphones when exiting the bus.
- When going home, look for moving cars in all directions, especially to your right, before stepping off the bus.
  - If you DO NOT have to cross the road to GET OFF the bus:
  - Look for cars in both directions as you walk straight away from the bus, in full view of the driver.
  - Keep walking until you are out of the danger zone, 12 feet away from the bus.
- If you DO have to cross the road to GET OFF the bus:
  - Wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross 2 different times
    - At the end of the crossing gate
    - At the center of the road
  - Look for cars to your left and right while walking promptly across & exiting 12 feet off the road.
  - NEVER cross behind the bus.
- Never get mail from a roadside mailbox. If a car is coming and loses control, it might run off the road.
- When unloading at school, never run between parked cars and buses.

The following rules have varied consequences (if not followed):

**KEY**

R = Rule

C = Consequence

R - Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger. Tell your bus driver, your teacher or your parents if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.

C - The stranger could be a bad person.

R - Respect the property of home owners at the bus stop.

C - Their yard, flowers or bushes could get damaged and you could get into trouble.

R - Keep the noise down at the bus stop.

C - Someone in a house close by may still be asleep.

R - Avoid horseplay, pushing or shoving.

C - Someone could get hurt.

R - Always use the handrail.

C - You might fall going up and down the steps.

R - Remain seated until bus is stopped and door is opened.

C - You might fall and get hurt if the bus is moving.

R - Do not push or shove, but wait your turn to get off.

C - You or someone else could fall and get hurt.

R - Load the bus in an orderly manner.

C - Someone could get hurt.

R - Make sure you get on the right bus at school. If you get on the wrong bus by mistake, tell the driver.

C - You could get lost.

R - Never place your head, arms or any object out of the window.

C - The bus could start to move and drive close to something and you could get hit.

R - You must remain absolutely quiet at railroad grade crossings.

C - The bus driver will not be able to hear an approaching train.

R - Follow directions of the school bus driver the first time given. They are like your teacher and you should listen and do what they say.

C - You won't know what to do to be safe or what to do to stay out of trouble.

R - Go directly to an available or assigned seat when entering the bus.

C - Others cannot be seated if you are in the aisle and if you are standing up when the bus moves you might fall.

R - Remain seated, facing forward with your back against the seat.

C - You will not be safe if the bus driver has to steer or stop quickly or if the bus is in an accident.

R - Tell your bus driver if someone is picking on you or making you feel uncomfortable.

C - They may not stop if the driver does not help you.

R - Hold your books and other things in your lap so the bus aisles and exits are clear.

C - Others could trip on something and fall.

R - Respect the rights and safety of others. Never bother things that belong to someone else.

C - You could be blamed if something gets lost or broken.

R - Talk in a quiet voice on the bus.

C - The bus driver could be distracted by the noise and not drive safely.

R - Do not chew gum, eat or drink on the bus.

C - You could get choked, or you could drop or spill something which would make the bus dirty or cause someone to slip and fall.

R - Never throw anything on the bus.

C - Someone could get hurt or your bus driver could be distracted and have a wreck.

R - Never bring tobacco, drugs, knives or weapons on the school bus.

C - These items are not allowed and you could get into trouble.

R - Never bring animals onto the bus.

C - Animals could get loose and distract the driver causing them to not drive safely.

R - Never bring glass objects onto the bus.

C - You could drop something glass, and if it breaks then someone could get hurt.

R - If something is too big to hold in your lap and you need to take it to school, then get your parents to drive you to school that day.

C - If something is placed in the aisle, then someone might trip and fall. It could also block aisle if there is the need for an emergency evacuation and students would not get off the bus as fast.

R - Never operate cell phones while on the bus. If you have a cell phone keep it in your pocket or purse.

C - Using the cell phone on the bus is not allowed and you could get into trouble.

R - Never use obscene language or gestures.

C - If you do not respect everyone, they may not respect and be nice to you.

R - Never leave or board the bus at locations other than your assigned stop. Follow local school system procedures to obtain signed permission for a change of stop location.

C - You could end up somewhere and the school or your parents would not know where you are.

R - Help keep the bus clean.

C - A dirty bus is not as safe and not as much fun to ride as a clean bus.

In all types of evacuation it is important that you:

- R - Remain calm and remain quiet so you can hear the driver's instructions.  
C - If you do not listen, then you may not know what to do.
- R - Stay seated until it is your turn to leave the bus. You will unload letting seats take turns, going from side to side.  
C - It is not safe and as fast if you do not unload orderly, taking turns.
- R - Leave books, lunch boxes, and other personal belongings on the bus so you can leave without delay.  
C - You will be slower getting off the bus with them. These items can be replaced. **YOU CANNOT BE REPLACED!**
- R - Walk as you leave the bus. Do not run.  
C - You could fall and get hurt.
- R - Go 100 feet (3 bus lengths) away from the bus.  
C - If you do not get far enough away from the bus you could be in danger if the bus catches on fire or if it is hit by another vehicle.
- R - Remain in an orderly group and wait for further instruction from your driver or a student helper.  
C - Your driver might not be able to find you and tell you what to do next.