

School Bus Safety

information for riders,
parents and motorists



staying safe on and around the bus

School bus travel is extremely safe. In Ontario, over 800,000 students are transported daily to and from school in school buses. When injuries occur to school bus passengers, they happen most often outside the bus as students are entering and leaving the bus or crossing the street. The following information can help to make riding a school bus a safe experience.

- Be at the school bus stop on time.
- Wait in a safe place well back from the edge of the road.
- Enter the bus in single file.
- Find a seat right away and stay seated facing forward at all times.
- Do not place things in the aisle.
- Avoid rowdy behaviour. Do not throw things or eat or drink.
- Avoid distracting the driver and follow his or her instructions.
- Keep your arms and head inside the bus.

- Children leaving the bus should move away from the side. If they can touch the bus, they are too close.
- Don't stand too close to the edge of the road. Do not play in ditches or on snowbanks.
- If a child drops something near the bus, they must never try to pick it up as they may be out of sight of the bus driver. They should tell an adult or the driver.

When crossing the street to get on or off the bus children should:

- Walk at least 10 big steps in front of the bus, along the side of the road and look at the driver before crossing.
- Look for a signal from the bus driver before walking across the road.
- Look all ways before crossing the roadway. Walk, never run.
- Parents should meet their children on the side of the road where the bus stops.

always stop for the bus



- When approaching the front of the bus from the opposite direction stop at a safe distance.
- When coming from behind the bus, stop at least 20 metres away.
- Do not start moving until the bus moves or the red lights have stopped flashing.

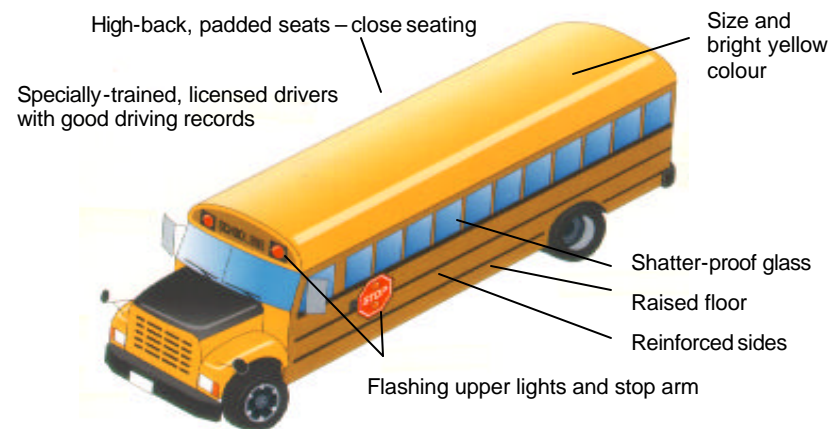
PENALTIES FOR NOT STOPPING!

First offence - \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points

Each subsequent offence - \$1,000 to \$4,000, six demerit points and possible jail up to six months

what makes a school bus safe

School buses meet 37 federal safety standards set by Transport Canada. Some of them are:



why no seat belts?

Very few injuries occur to passengers on a school bus. Instead of requiring passengers to use seat belts, school buses are designed and constructed differently from passenger cars. School buses protect passengers through “compartmentalization”, which includes:

- Seats with high backs
- Seats placed close together to form compartments
- Seats filled with energy-absorbing material
- Strong seat anchorages

Studies have shown that adding seat belts to the current seating configuration of a school bus can increase the chance of head and neck injuries in restrained passengers. For a seat belt to be effective, it must be worn correctly, snug and low on the hips.

Because school vehicles carry passengers from the very young to high school students, if seat belts were used, they would need to be readjusted and their use monitored. A seat belt not worn correctly may cause injuries.