

Safe school bus loading and unloading

FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus.

The Iowa departments of Education, Transportation and Public Safety recommend the following administrative actions be taken by public and private schools for safe school bus loading and unloading.

- Whenever possible and practical, plan bus routes that eliminate the need for pupils to walk across public highways to load or unload from a bus.
- Establish transportation policies that minimize highway crossings to and from school buses by any pupil under 10 years of age, unless accompanied by an adult crossing guard or parent, unless some other adequate provision for safety is made.
- Plan and implement bus passenger safety instruction in the school curriculum for all grade levels, especially for kindergarten through grade six. National School Bus Safety Week can be used for promotion of these activities and instruction.
- School teachers, principals and administrators, in their contacts with parents, should emphasize the kind of safety instruction pupil passengers need and enlist parental support to achieve this end.
- Utilize the news media, civic organizations, PTAs and community speaking engagements to emphasize the responsibilities of the motoring public, drivers, parents and students for ensuring pupil safety of persons loading and unloading from school buses.
- Report to local law enforcement documented violations of Iowa's school bus no-passing law.

