

# Safe school bus loading and unloading

## FOR SCHOOL BUS RIDERS

**Remove straps and ties.** Make sure all drawstrings, ties and straps on all clothing and backpacks are removed. This will lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles. Be especially careful of drawstrings with large knots or baubles on the end.

**Arrive at the bus stop early.** Stay at least 20 feet away from the street while waiting for the bus.

**Do not approach the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board.** Enter in single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.

**Take your assigned seat right away.** Remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms and head inside the bus.

**Always listen to the driver's instructions.** Follow the driver's instructions at all times.

**Be courteous to the driver and other students.** You may talk quietly with your neighbors, but avoid making noises that could distract the driver or bother other passengers. Stay seated with your hands to yourself.

**To exit the bus, wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before standing up.** Use the handrail when exiting the bus. Be sure to take all of your belongings. Be careful that none of your clothing becomes snagged on any part of the bus as you leave the bus.

**Stay out of the Danger Zone.** This is the area close to the bus in the front, sides and back where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. To make sure that the driver sees you while you are standing on the side of the street, take 10 giant steps ahead of the bus and out of the Danger Zone. You should be able to see the driver and the driver should see you. If you can see the driver's eyes, then the driver can see you. Never crawl near, around or under a bus.



**If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal.** First, make sure that the driver sees you. While you are standing on the side of the street, take 10 giant steps ahead of the bus. You should be able to see the driver and the driver should see you. If you can see the driver's eyes, then the driver can see you. The driver will raise his/her hand. Once the driver lowers his/her hand, it is safe to start to cross. When you get to the middle of the street, stop and look both ways before going any farther. Then cross in front of the bus. If your driver honks the horn, STOP right away and return to the side of the street from which you started to cross.

**Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.** Never horseplay around a school bus, even if it is stopped. Don't stop or crawl near a school bus. Stay out of the Danger Zone at all times. Never go behind a school bus. If you drop something near the bus, don't stop or bend over to pick it up. If you dropped, lost or forgot something, ask the driver for help.

**Be extra careful if you have to cross the road to get on the bus.** Look both ways before starting to cross the road. Wait until there are no vehicles. Then cross in front of the bus. If your driver honks the horn, STOP right away and return to the side of the street from which you started.