

SIGNAL FOR SAFETY



Motorists around school buses need to know the signals and the laws that concern school buses to help keep children safe

- Do not pass a school bus that has red alternating flashing lights on. This is the signal that the bus is stopped to load or unload children. Traffic should not move until the bus resumes motion or the driver signals traffic to proceed.
- When a bus has alternating flashing amber (yellow) lights on, it is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Be ready to stop and watch for children in the roadway.

Parents... are very important in helping keep children safe on the school bus. Here are some ways in which parents can help:

- Review the safety rules with children. Help them to understand why each rule is important.
- Dress children in light colored clothing or jackets on dark mornings.
- Help children to be ready at the bus stop before the bus arrives.
- Take turns supervising bus stops for smaller children.

Bus drivers...help to keep children safe in a number of ways:

- Drivers watch surrounding traffic closely to keep school children safe.
- Drivers will signal to children that need to cross the street only when traffic has stopped.
- In case an emergency vehicle approaches while loading or unloading, the driver will get the children to a place of safety until the emergency vehicle passes.



Cell phone use, texting and other hand held electronic devices: (3301-83-20)

(M) Except in cases of extreme emergency, cellular telephones, including hands-free and wireless devices, or other portable communication devices shall not be used by the driver while the school bus is in motion or while the driver is supervising the loading or unloading of students.

Students should also be advised by parents, teachers and bus drivers not to use cell phones or electronic devices when loading or unloading or when they may become a distraction to their own or others' safety.

Students need to remain free of distractions when crossing the street or waiting for the bus to arrive where traffic could be a hazard.

Ohio Law:

3301-83-13 School bus stops

(B) School bus stop location

(1) Pupils in grades kindergarten through eighth grade may be required to walk up to one-half mile to a designated bus stop.

(3) School bus stops shall be established on the residence side of all four lane highways and on the residence side of other roadways posing potential hazards to students as determined by school bus owners.

(5) Each pupil shall be assigned and required to use a specific school bus stop except in unusual circumstances as approved by the school bus owner or designee.

(6) Each pupil shall be assigned a residence side designated place of safety. Drivers must account for each pupil at designated place of safety before leaving. Pupils are not to proceed to their residence until the school bus has departed.

Pupil Transportation Operation and Safety Rules-September 2008



WHY IT TAKES SO LONG AT BUS STOPS

SAFETY PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW

THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN, AS THEY ARE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS, IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY.

At bus stops state law requires drivers to follow these procedures:

- ◆ Check mirrors for traffic conditions and apply brakes well in advance to warn traffic from the rear.
- ◆ Actuate warning lights 300 feet prior to stop.
- ◆ Stop bus at designated stop.
- ◆ Set parking brake.
- ◆ Place the gear shift lever into neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions to prevent the bus from lunging forward.
- ◆ Open service door to actuate the warning lights and place hand over horn to warn students of potential hazards.
- ◆ Give students directions to go to their **Designated Place of Safety** and stay there until the bus leaves or signal students to board the bus from their **Designated Place of Safety**.
- ◆ Shift the gear lever into the starting gear, only after counting and confirming the students are in their **Designated Place of Safety or safely in their seat**.
- ◆ Look to identify students and potential hazards in the danger zone, counting and checking the mirrors, before closing the door and canceling the warning lights.
- ◆ Close the door when all areas are clear. Door must be closed before the bus moves.
- ◆ Release the parking brake after closing the door.
- ◆ Recheck traffic in the right and left side mirrors prior to pulling away.

Modification of these procedures may be necessary for preschool, kindergarten, and special needs students.

