



School Bus SAFETY

Ensuring the safety of our children while they travel to and from school is a top priority of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. With that said, **school bus safety is a shared responsibility.** Parents, it is important to talk to your children about what they can do to stay safe at the bus stop.

Millions of children rely on school bus transportation daily. School buses are considered one of the safest vehicles that travel our roadways, with less than 1% of traffic fatalities involving children on school transportation vehicles.

About 100 school-aged children (5-18 years-old) are killed in school transportation-related crashes each year. The main contributors to these deaths are:

- **Improper loading and unloading** – Children are at their highest risk injury when waiting for, approaching or leaving the school bus.
- **Distracted drivers** – Being distracted behind the wheel poses a major risk for kids at the bus stop. The three types of distracted driving are visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel and cognitive (taking your mind off the task of driving).
- **Inadequate visibility** – Blind spots can prevent drivers from seeing children getting on or off the bus.

Questions About School Bus Safety?

Scan the code or contact
Licensing & Commercial Standards:

Phone: (614) 995-5986

Email: ADLCS@dps.ohio.gov



statepatrol.ohio.gov/schoolbus

School Bus Safety Guidelines

School bus safety is a shared responsibility that involves drivers, parents, students and school districts.

Safety tips for drivers:

- Always stop when the red lights of the bus are flashing and/or the stop arm is extended.
- Be vigilant and especially aware in school zones and residential areas.
- Adhere to speed limits, especially in school zones.

Safety tips for parents and students:

- Stand back from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Wear bright clothing, especially in low-light conditions.
- Always listen to the bus driver's safety directions.

Responsibilities of school districts:

- Ensure all school buses are inspected regularly and maintained according to state standards.
- Provide training for bus drivers on safety protocols and emergency procedures.

Ohio Revised Code 4511.75 requires drivers to stop for school buses when the school bus is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child.

How Design Makes a School Bus Safer

School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road and are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries. They are highly visible and include safety features such as flashing red lights, cross-view mirrors, emergency exits and stop sign arms.

School buses also have a considerably robust construction. Large school buses are heavier and distribute crash forces differently than passenger cars and trucks. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the concept used to provide crash protection on these buses is called “compartmentalization,” and it is required to provide protection without occupants needing to buckle up.

Ohio State Highway Patrol's Role in School Bus Safety

All school buses must pass Patrol inspections before being permitted to transport kids. By adhering to safety guidelines and understanding relevant laws and standards, we help children arrive to school and return home safely.



Ohio Administrative Code 3301-83-06 outlines the standards for school bus operation, including maintenance and safety inspections.