

School Bus Stop Security

STUDENT HANDOUT

The Dangers are

School bus stops are usually very safe places for students, but in today's world, dangers do exist. Sadly, violence, gang activity and abductions have happened at or near school bus stops. And, the potential exists for a terrorist act involving school buses.

It is important for you to be aware of possible dangers at school bus stops, and to know what to do if you see someone or something that seems suspicious.

The information in this handout is not intended to frighten you. Hopefully, the **3 STEPS TO SAFETY** will help you stay safe at and near your bus stop.

3 STEPS TO SAFETY

STEP #1: BE AWARE OF DANGERS

First, be aware that dangers can exist at or near the school bus stop: violence; abductions; bullying; hijacking

STEP #2: KNOW WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Suspicious people; odd behavior
- Strangers hanging around the stop
- Strangers offering you a ride
- Someone taking pictures
- Unusual packages left at the stop; packages with wires or leaking fluid
- Weapons
- Students or others talking about weapons or violence

STEP #3: KNOW WHAT TO DO

If you see someone or something suspicious: Tell your school bus drivers; they have been trained to know what to do in an emergency — follow their directions in an emergency. Or, tell a trusted adult — your parents, teacher, principal, etc.



!Remember: *YOU are an important part of safety at the school bus stop. You can play an active role in keeping you and your fellow students safe.*

The Information on the next page will help you know what to do if there is danger at or near the bus stop.



Pupil Transportation
Safety Institute

Moving School Transportation from Safe to

School Bus Stop Security

STUDENT HANDOUT PG2

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR:



A STRANGER AT THE BUS STOP



A STRANGER TRYING TO TALK TO YOU



A STRANGER OFFERING YOU A RIDE



SOMEONE TAKING PICTURES near the bus stop



GANG MEMBERS OR SIGNS OF GANG ACTIVITY



BULLYING: Students threatening, shoving, hitting or hurting you or others, stealing lunches, backpacks, books, etc.



UNUSUAL PACKAGES OR WEAPONS: Hidden, with or without wires or leaking fluid



A WEAPON on the bus, or in a student's (or someone else's) possession; or you hear a student talking about weapons, or hurting someone

WHAT TO DO:

- Tell your bus driver or attendant immediately.
- Describe the person and the activity as best as you can.
- Note the day and the time and if you've seen the person there before.

- Move away from the person.
- Tell your bus driver or another adult.

DO NOT talk with the person!

- Get away quickly.
- Tell a trusted person or your school bus driver or attendant right away.

DO NOT get into the stranger's car!

- Tell your school bus driver or attendant immediately.

DO NOT get off the bus!

- Tell your school bus driver immediately.

DO NOT get off the bus!

- Tell the driver, school official, teacher or your parents.

DO NOT say anything directly to the bully!

- Leave it where you found it.
- Tell your bus driver or attendant immediately.

DO NOT touch the package!

DO NOT use your cell phone! It could set off a bomb!

- Quietly tell the bus driver or attendant immediately.
- Tell your parents.
- Tell a school official.

DO NOT confront the person!



Pupil Transportation Safety Institute

Moving School Transportation from Safe to Safer.

Things Kids Should know About School Bus Safety:

- The bus driver and others cannot see you if you are standing closer than 10 feet to the bus. Stay out of the danger zone!
- If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER try to pick it up yourself!
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- When you get on or off the bus, look for the bus safety lights and make sure they are flashing.
- Be alert to traffic. When you get on or off the bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.
- When the driver says it is safe to cross the street, remember to CROSS IN FRONT of the bus.
- Stay in your seat and sit quietly so that the driver is not distracted.
- Some school buses now have seat belts. If you have seat belts on your school bus, be sure to learn to use the seat belt correctly.

Things Parents Should know About School Bus Safety:

- School buses are the safest form of highway transportation.
- The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus.
 - Pedestrian fatalities (while loading and unloading school buses) account for approximately three times as many school bus-related fatalities, when compared to school bus occupant fatalities.
- The loading and unloading area is called the “Danger Zone”
 - The “Danger Zone” is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver (ten feet in front of the bus where the driver may be too high to see a child, ten feet on either side of the bus where a child may be in the driver’s blind spot, and the area behind the bus).
- Half of the pedestrian fatalities in school bus-related crashes are children between 5 and 7 years old.
- Young children are most likely to be struck because they:
 - Hurry to get on and off the bus
 - Act before they think and have little experience with traffic
 - Assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross the street
 - Don’t always stay within the bus driver’s sight



How to Use a School Bus Seat with Lap-Shoulder Seat Belt Restraints

I have read and discussed these important safety instructions with my child.

Parent / Guardian Signature Date _____

Child Date _____

Instructor Date _____

- When to Wear the Lap-Shoulder Belt**
1. When the school bus is ready to begin or continue its trip.
 2. Anytime the school bus is moving.

Buckling Up Properly

1. The passenger should sit as flat against the seat back as possible to achieve the best possible fit of the lap-shoulder belt on the passenger's upper and lower torso. **A**



2. Pull out shoulder belt webbing from the upper seat back. Do not let the belt get twisted. (The shoulder belt could possibly lock if you pull the belt across you very quickly. If this happens, let the belt retract slightly to unlock it. Then pull the belt across you more slowly.) **B**



3. Place the lap-shoulder belt over the shoulder and around the passenger's upper body. **C**



4. Insert the latch plate into the matching seat belt buckle on the lower seat cushion. **D**

1. CLICK

Listen for an audible click when the latch plate is fastened.



1. TUG

Check that the buckle connection is secure by pulling on the shoulder portion of the lap-shoulder belt. **E**



7. Position the lap portion of the belt so that the webbing is below the passenger's waist, not over the stomach or abdomen area. The lap portion of the belt must be low and snug over the bony structure of the passenger's hips. **F**



1. SNUG

Pull up on the shoulder portion of the lap-shoulder belt to tighten the lap portion. **G**



The shoulder portion of the belt must be snug across the chest and in the center of the passenger's shoulder. **H**



1. Position the shoulder height adjuster at or just above the passenger's shoulder. The shoulder belt should not cross the passenger's face or neck. **I**



1. Make sure the lap-shoulder belt is snug and lies flat against the passenger. There should be no twisting of the webbing. **J**

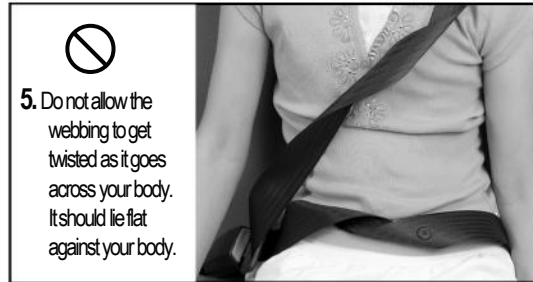


Unbuckling Properly

1. Push the red buckle release button and remove the latch plate from the buckle. The buckle has a release mechanism that separates the latch plate from the buckle. **A**
2. Allow the shoulder belt to retract and stow in the upper seat back.
3. As a courtesy to the next passenger, move the shoulder height adjuster up to its highest position. **B A B**



Examples of Improper Usage



WARNING! DEATH or SERIOUS INJURY can occur:

- Follow all instructions on the restraint and in the seat user manual. Failure to follow the manufacturer's warnings for proper use of this restraint system can result in serious injury or death.
- **Use only with occupants at least 4 years old, who weigh 40 pounds (18 kg) or more and whose height is 40 inches (102 cm) or more.**
- Backpacks must be removed before using the lap-shoulder seat belt restraints.
- Seat belt must be snugly adjusted around the occupant.