

GOT RISK?

District *Safety* Gram

PEOPLE-MISSION-SAFETY



School Bus Safety

School is starting back up, and that means increased transportation on the roads and highways.

Over 25 million kids will be riding to school in buses. Whether you have a child riding on the bus, or you are just another driver, it is important to take note of these safety tips regarding schoolbuses.

Tips for drivers:

- School buses make frequent stops. These can be because of possible hazards like railroads, or because of a drop off. Keep a safe distance from the bus while driving, in order to prevent oneself from ending up in a collision from an unanticipated stop.
- The most hazardous part of school bus travel for children, would be when entering and exiting the bus. If you see a stopped bus, it is best to follow suit. Failing to stop for a school bus puts oneself as well as others at risk. Failing to stop for a school bus is also a citable traffic offense.
- When stopped for loading or unloading of passengers, watch out for any kids that may be in or around the road. Children are harder to see than adults, and therefore may be in your blind spot. Children also tend to run. This makes it harder to keep track of what is going on, especially if they are in or near the street.
 - **Yellow bus lights** indicate that the bus is approaching a stop. Be careful and proceed with caution as the bus may stop soon.
 - **Red bus lights** as well as the extended stop sign indicate that the bus has stopped, and so should traffic.

Tips for parents:

- Make sure that your child is at the bus stop at least five minutes ahead of time.
- Children should be several steps (approx 6 feet) from the curb when the bus pulls up.
- It is important to carefully enter and exit the bus.
- No one should be running in or around the school bus.
- Never walk behind the school bus, and never reach under it if something is dropped.
- Make sure your children communicate with their bus driver if there is a problem.

It would seem like common sense, but accidents occur all the time because of failure to follow simple safety rules.

Back- to-school safety starts before your child steps on to the bus. Don't get left behind!

