



ADE Health & Physical Education State Standards Revision Committee Meeting

June 22, 2017

Bus Safety

- A.C.A. §6-19-117(f) - **The Director of the Division shall cause to be publicized the third week of October as School Bus Safety.**
- A.C.A. §6-17-116(b) – Every school district board of directors shall adopt and file with the Department of Education **written policies concerning the violation of school standards such as disrespect for teachers and classified school employees, vandalism, and other undesirable behavioral patterns.**
- A.C.A. §6-17-116(c) – **Every school district board of directors in this state shall hold its pupils strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school, on the school grounds, in a school bus, or at any school function.**

School Bus General Observations

- School buses are operated by public school districts as an **accommodation** to students and parents
- Riding a bus is a **privilege** that must not be abused by daily riders or those only riding a bus for a field trip
- The same appropriate behavior as expected at school is expected on the school bus and at the bus stop

School Bus Illegal Passing Survey

On April 26, 2016, Arkansas school bus drivers reported motorists illegally passing school buses on that one day.

Districts participating in passing survey	108
Drivers participating in passing survey	2,903
Results of vehicles illegally passing	706
A.M.	266
P.M.	440
Occurring from front of bus	564
Occurring from rear of bus	142
Occurring on the passenger side of the bus	29



The last Arkansas student fatality caused by a driver illegally passing a school bus was in January 2007 in the Watson Chapel School District. Arkansas regularly has near-misses. In January 2017, a student was struck by a driver illegally passing a school bus and luckily survived.

Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers

➤ Section 4 – Written Policies

4.01 All public school districts shall establish written policies concerning transportation by school districts, including, but not limited to:

4.01.1 Transportation eligibility;

4.01.2 **Student behavior while being transported;** and

4.01.3 Emergency procedures while being transported.

4.01.4 **All students who are transported in a school bus shall be instructed in safe riding practices and shall participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year. Each evacuation drill shall be documented and kept on file.**

School Bus Safety Plan Template

August 2009

- Suggested template only
 - <http://arkansasfacilities.arkansas.gov/transportation/forms-transportation/school-bus-safety-plan>
- School District Training – The district will conduct an annual education program for all students regarding the safety procedures at all bus stops.

Arkansas PTA School Bus Safety

➤ PTA

- Information and brochures on school bus safety
- <http://www.arkansaspta.org>

➤ Arkansas State Police (*Laws*)

- Mike Foster (501) 618-8800

➤ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

- <http://www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses>

School Bus



School bus safety *starts at home!*

- Get a good night's rest
- Get up on time
 - Get dressed
 - Eat breakfast
- Leave home to get to the bus stop at least 10 minutes before your designated pick-up time



On the way to the bus stop

- **Always** walk on the sidewalk
 - If no sidewalk, walk a safe distance from the traffic
- **Never** chase or run behind the school bus



At the bus stop

- **Always** stand at least 10 feet (*10 giant steps*) from the road or intersection that has been designated as an assigned bus stop
- **Never** stand in the street
- **Never** run around or horseplay at the bus stop
- **Always** stand at least 10 giant steps from the road
- **Always** pay attention to your surroundings
- **Always** line up in a single line as the bus approaches, **no** pushing or shoving
- **Always** make sure the bus driver can see you
- **Always** wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus
- If you have to cross the street, **wait** until the bus driver signals for you to cross
- **Always** cross in front of the school bus
- If you drop something, tell the driver. **Never** try to pick it up or reach under the school bus
- **Always** watch the traffic coming from both directions



Boarding the bus

- ***Always*** use the handrail
- **Find your seat quickly** when enter bus
 - Go to the first available seat or your assigned seat



On the bus



- **Always** obey and respect your bus driver
- **Always** use your inside voice
- **Never** leave books, trash, or backpacks in the aisle
- **Always** face the front of the bus, **never** put your feet in the aisle
- **Always** keep your hands to yourself
- **Never** try to open the emergency doors or windows unless it is an emergency and your driver instructs you to open them
- **Always** stay in your seat until the bus comes to a complete stop
- **Always** keep your hands, arms and head inside the bus
- If you see someone being bullied, **always** let your driver or teacher at school know
- **Always** get off the bus at your assigned stop, **never** at a different stop

Getting Off the bus

- **Always** wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before you get up to get off the bus
- **Always** use the handrail
- **Always** walk at least 10 giant steps away from the bus before going into the direction of your home
- If you have to cross the street, you should stand on the curb 10 giant steps in front of the bus on the sidewalk and **wait** for a signal from the bus driver to assure all traffic has come to a complete stop
- Once you begin crossing the street, **never** stop until you have safely made it across the street
- **Always** go straight home before going to play with friends

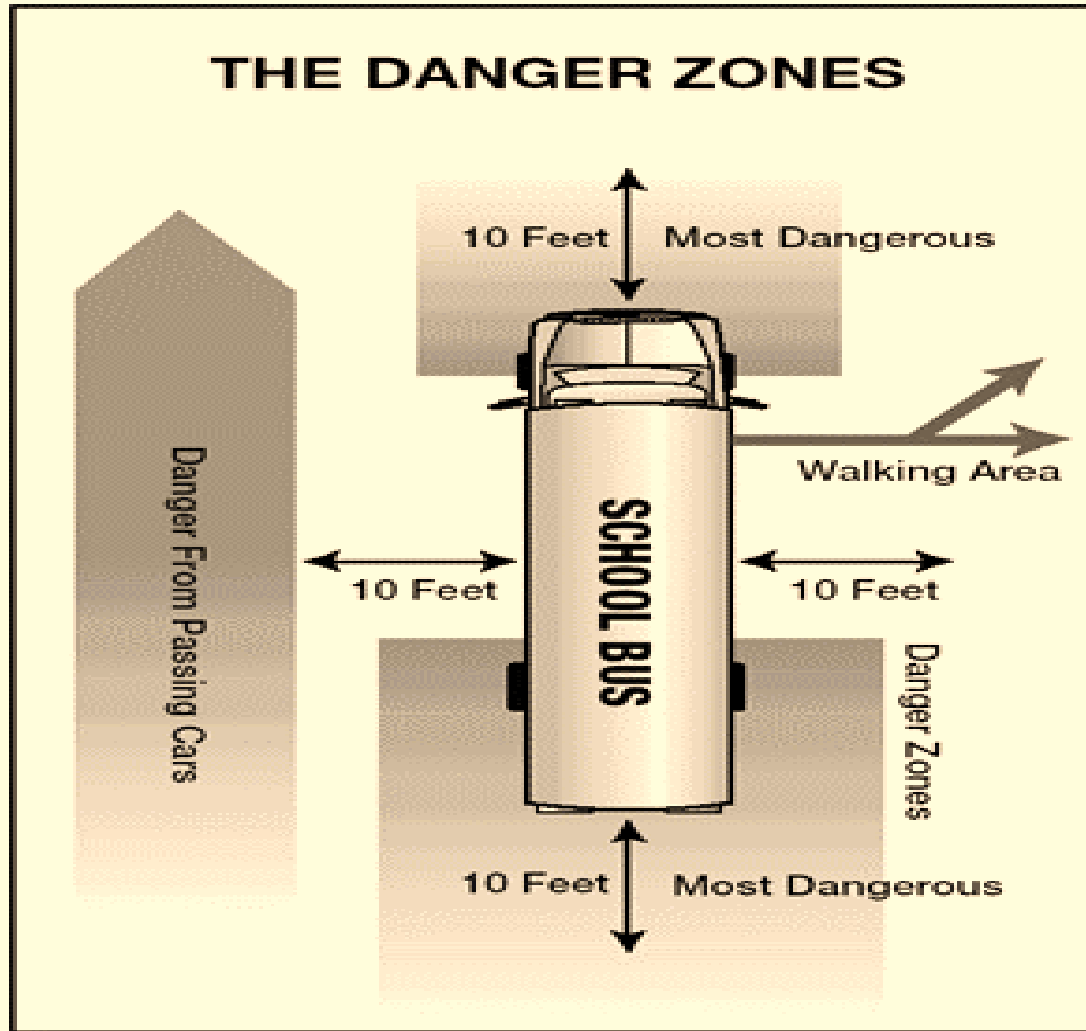


What are some things that you can do to *make* that motorist see *you*?

- Wear **BRIGHT COLORED** clothing, especially if it is dark
- Put **NEON TAPE** on backpacks
- Wear **NEON** vests



Beware of the Danger Zones



Note to the Bus Driver

- Get plenty of rest
- Be on time
- Say good morning to students
- Be fair and consistent
- Post bus rules
- Keep bus clean
- **Never** drive while students are standing
- **Only** drop students off at their assigned bus stop



- Ensure students **never** cross a four lane road or highway to load or unload a school bus
- Address your router or supervisor with these concerns immediately
- **Always** check bus for sleeping or hiding children
- Pre-trip and post-trip every day, and after every run
- Be aware of emergency procedures



Emergency Evacuations

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR EVACUATION

- Fire
- Weather
- Bus stalled on railroad
- Hazardous materials spill
- Bus in danger of a collision

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- Determine the need to evacuate
- Contact dispatcher if time permits
- Secure the bus, engage parking brake, and remove key
- Determine a safe place, 100 feet from the road in the direction of oncoming traffic, upwind of the bus if there is a fire, and as far away from railroad tracks in the direction of any oncoming train
- **Walk through bus to ensure no** students remain on the bus and retrieve emergency equipment
- Rejoin students, do a **head count**, and wait for responders

EMERGENCY EXITS

- Front Door
- Side Doors
- Rear Door
- Top Hatch



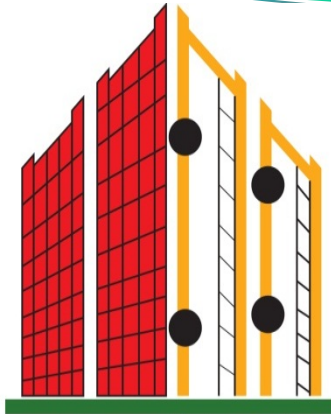
**Emergency
Evacuation**

School Bus Potential Issues & Concerns

- Students requiring constant care and attention left unattended
- Large bulky musical instruments transported on daily route bus
- Permission to take dead or live animals on board the bus
- Permission to transport competition firearms on board school buses
- Students carrying food or drink for consumption on the school bus
- Students boarding or leaving the bus at any point other than authorized bus stop
- Students on school or bus suspension present at bus stop

World's Most Precious Cargo !!!





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Public School Academic
Facilities and Transportation**

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