

Roseville Area Schools School Bus Safety Home Training Lesson

Minnesota State law requires that school bus safety education to be taught in schools during the first weeks of school. The law also suggests that young students receive school bus safety training before they come to school the first day. As a parent, you are your child's most influential teacher. We ask that you teach your child about school bus safety. This is an important message; the information below will help you explain to your child how to be safe on and around and on the bus. Spend some time with your child on these points. Explain the reasons why they are important, and go over them again three or four times on different days so that your child will have a safer bus ride when school starts. **New secondary drivers who will be driving when there are school buses on the road should read this as well, so that they are aware that small children might be on the roads when they are driving after school.**

Thank you. Jan Vanderwall and Jim Monroe

Bus Safety Guidelines

1. **Be ready for the bus at the scheduled time.** Bus times are set based on the streets that they run on and with a standard loading time. If a student is late to the stop, and the bus has to wait, the bus will be late to all the rest of the stops and to school. Bus riders who are late to stops often don't act safely, and are in more danger than if they were ready on time.
2. **Wait until bus is stopped before moving toward the bus and getting on.** Often students get anxious as the bus approaches
3. After getting on the bus, go to a seat, sit down and stay seated.
4. Remain quiet on the bus, so you don't distract the driver.
5. Do what the driver tells you to do.
6. Make sure that you get on the right bus - know your bus numbers.
7. Always carry your bus assignment card.
8. Be ready to get off the bus when it gets near your stop, but stay seated until the bus stops at your stop.
9. After getting off of the bus, walk away from the bus. Don't stay near it. If you have to cross the street, go at least 5 big steps in front of the bus, and wait until the driver waves for you to cross the street. If there are older children crossing at your bus stop, younger students should cross the street with them as well. **NEVER GO BACK TO THE BUS AFTER YOU GET OFF OF IT. IF YOU DROP SOMETHING, WAIT UNTIL THE BUS IS GONE, AND THEN GET YOUR MOM OR DAD TO GO WITH YOU TO GET IT.**

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Bus Safety Guidelines with Explanation

1. Be ready for the bus at the scheduled time. Bus times are set based on the streets that they run on and with a standard loading time. If a student is late to the stop, and the bus has to wait, the bus may be late to all the rest of the stops and to school. Another concern is that bus riders who are late to stops often don't act safely, and so are in more danger than if they were ready on time.
2. Wait until bus is stopped before moving toward the bus and getting on. Often students get anxious to get on the bus as it arrives, so they run forward while the bus is still moving. This is a dangerous practice because a student could slip or fall in front of the bus.
3. **After getting on the bus, go to a seat, sit down and stay seated.** Law requires that students be seated while a bus is moving. Students should sit down quickly so that the bus runs on time. If a student is standing when the bus is moving, he or she may get knocked down or around by the movement of the bus. This could cause injury.
4. **Remain quiet on the bus, so you don't distract the driver.** While the bus is moving, kids often talk, and that is OK unless it gets too loud. Then the driver can't hear important things like sirens or train whistles, or can be distracted by having to pay attention to the kids and miss something important like a stoplight, or a car coming from another direction.
5. **Do what the driver tells you to do.** The driver is in charge of the bus, and sometimes has to tell students to be quiet, or to sit down, or to wait to get on or off of the bus. The driver is trying to keep students safe, and so kids should do what he or she says.
6. **Make sure that you get on the right bus - know your bus numbers.** The bus which takes a student to school may be different than the one that brings her or him home. A student should always know the bus number which will bring her/him home because that is the one at school where there may be other buses to choose from.
7. **Always carry your bus card.** The bus card provided by the school contains the student's name, what buses he/she rides, and where the bus stop is. If there is a question about what the bus or bus stop is, the student kindergarten should get out the bus card and show it to the driver or teacher. This should be carried in the back pack all the time.
8. **Be ready to get off the bus when it gets near your stop, but don't get up until the bus stops at your stop.** A lot of times, young students get so involved in a conversation or the ride or whatever that they forget that they are on a ride home. They don't watch for their stop. When, and then when they arrive they aren't ready to pick up their backpack and get off of the bus. This delays the bus and makes everybody else late. Sometimes, the student misses his or her stop, and then the bus has to go back to the stop, making the bus late to all the other stops. Parents are very concerned.
9. **After getting off of the bus, walk away from the bus. Don't stay near it. If you have to cross the street, go at least 5 big steps in front of the bus, and wait until the driver waves for you to cross the street. If there are older children crossing at your bus stop, younger students should cross the street with them as well. NEVER GO BACK TO THE BUS AFTER YOU GET OFF OF IT. IF YOU DROP SOMETHING, WAIT UNTIL THE BUS IS GONE, AND THEN GET YOUR MOM OR DAD TO GO WITH YOU TO GET IT.** This is the most important instruction on this page. According to statistics, this is the area where most student fatalities occur. The **three key points** are to **go 5 big steps in front of the bus, wait until the driver tells you to cross, and never go back to the bus.** If your student doesn't have to cross (we try to avoid it) still take time on these points, because the route may change with new riders or for the next school year.

If you have any questions regarding bus routes or bus safety please contact the Roseville Area Schools Transportation Department at 651-635-1638.