



Partners in Education

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PETERMANN

Why it takes so long at bus stops: Safety procedures are required by law

At bus stops, Ohio State Law requires drivers to follow these procedures:

- Check mirrors for traffic conditions and apply brakes well in advance to warn traffic from the rear.
- Actuate warning lights approximately 300 feet prior to stop.
- Stop bus at designated stop.
- Set parking brake.
- Place the gear shift lever into neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions to prevent the bus from lunging forward.
- Open service door to actuate the warning lights and place hand over horn to warn students of potential hazards.
- Give student directions to go to their Designated Place of safety and stay there until the bus leaves or signal students to board the bus from their Designated Place of Safety.
- Drivers must check traffic before students exit the bus or before they drop their hand to signal students to board the bus.
- Shift the gear lever into the starting gear, only after counting and confirming the students are in their Designated Place of Safety or safely in their seat.
- Look to identify students and potential hazards in the Danger Zone, counting and checking the mirrors, before closing the door and canceling the warning lights.
- Close the door when all areas are clear. Door must be closed before the bus moves.
- Release the parking brake after closing the door.
- Recheck traffic in the right and left side mirrors prior to pulling away.

Modification of these procedures may be necessary for preschool, kindergarten and special needs students.

Warning Lights

- Alternating flashing amber (yellow) lights are to be used to warn motorists that the bus is stopping to take on or to discharge passengers.
- Alternating flashing red lights are to be used to inform motorists that the bus is stopped on the roadway to take on or discharge passengers
- Stop arm shall be operated simultaneously with flashing red signal lights
 - A white flashing strobe light, individually switched, may be used when unfavorable atmospheric conditions or time of day limit visibility (i.e. fog, rain, snow, darkness).
- Four-way hazard lights shall be activated at railroad crossings and turn-arounds unless prohibited by local ordinance.
- Headlights shall be actuated during operation of the school bus
- The bus will have its four-way hazard lights and backup lights on as it prepares to back into a side street to turn around
- Motorists must use caution when they approach a bus in the process of completing a turn-around.

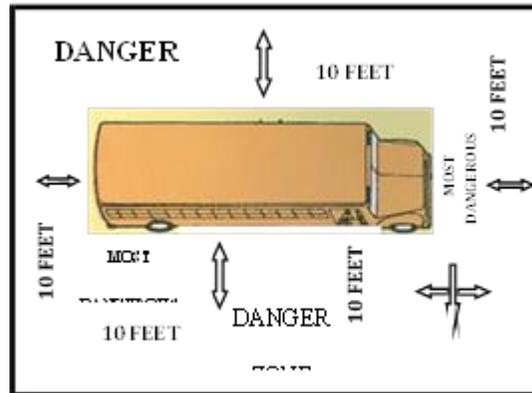
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Where is the Danger Zone?

The Danger Zone for a school bus is the area 10 feet around the bus. The 2 most dangerous places are the front of the bus and the right rear tire area.



- Please take the time to check your children's clothing and book bags to make sure they are safe.
 - Drawstrings and key chains may catch on objects on the bus and increase danger.
- Please talk to your child about the following safety rules:
 - Avoid the Danger Zone area around the bus.
 - Do not try to pick up something dropped near the bus- the bus driver might not see you.
 - Remember that some motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus.
 - Be careful whenever getting on or off the bus.