

Rules of Bus Safety

THE BUS TRIP:

Travelling on the bus can be an enjoyable experience if everyone follows the rules.

- ◆ Remain seated at all times when the bus is moving.
- ◆ Keep the aisles clear.
- ◆ Share responsibility for your bus. Help keep it clean.
- ◆ Do not throw any garbage out the windows.
- ◆ To avoid injuries, do not put your head or arms out the windows.
- ◆ Never distract the driver by shouting, moving from seat to seat, throwing objects, fighting, etc. Bus drivers have a serious responsibility. Help them do it safely.

GETTING OFF THE BUS:

- ◆ The bus is on a schedule, yet cannot delay traffic. You can help by being prepared for your stop.
- ◆ Remain seated until the bus comes to a stop.
- ◆ Do not push or shove. Allow students in front to get off first.
- ◆ When off the bus, move quickly away, always remaining in sight of the driver.
- ◆ Clear the **DANGER ZONE** (Danger Zone = close enough to touch the bus)
- ◆ If you drop something close to the bus, do not try to get it unless directed by the driver. Otherwise, wait until the bus moves away.

CROSSING THE STREET/HIGHWAY:

- ◆ Wait for the driver's signal that it is safe to cross.
- ◆ Keep checking for traffic as you cross.
- ◆ **NEVER** cross behind the bus.

**REMEMBER...
SEE AND BE SEEN**

Evacuations

EVACUATION PROCEDURES:

All students are trained in evacuation procedures. They should be reminded of the importance of this training, and encouraged to take it seriously, and do as instructed.

These drills are practiced several times during the school year by both bus drivers and staff from the Regional Centre's Transportation Department.

However, the most important rule for any student to remember is to **listen to the school bus driver!**

Valuable Resources

Nova Scotia School Bus Safety

www.schoolbussafety.ca

Safety Services Nova Scotia

www.safetyservicesns.ca

Strait Regional Centre for Education Policy IX-A-2, Student Transportation: Roles and Responsibilities

www.srce.ca

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School Bus Safety: A Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians



Strait
Regional Centre for Education

Student Safety

School bus safety is a shared responsibility. Parents/guardians are a child's first teacher, and provide important safety instructions and/or accompanies their child(ren) to the bus stop. This is very important if the child is young and must cross the street/highway, or if there is concern about their safety while waiting for the bus.

Motorists, also, have a responsibility and must always be alert for children on the highway, crossing the street, etc., and must pay particular attention to stopped school buses with flashing red lights. Once in the bus, the student is in the care of the driver, however, a parent's responsibility does not end there. Parents/guardians must instruct their child to obey the rules so that the bus driver can give his/her full attention to driving obligations.

Strait Regional Centre for Education staff provide a student bus safety program to all Grade Primary to Six students on an annual basis. In addition to teaching students how to behave while on the bus, the program covers safety while walking to and from the bus stop, crossing the street/highway, waiting at the stop, and how to get off and move safely away from the bus.



Student Safety, cont'd

To support this program and reinforce its importance, teachers and parents/guardians are asked to review with students the bus safety rules contained in this brochure.

Students, parents/guardians, motorists, the school bus driver, teachers and Transportation Department staff share the responsibility for bus safety. By working together, we will ensure that the bus trip is a safe one.

Please direct questions to:

Kevin Pierce
Manager of Transportation
kevin.pierce@srce.ca
902-747-3642 / 902-747-3645



BUSSING EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

902-747-3642

(6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Rules of Bus Safety

GETTING TO THE BUS STOP:

- ◆ Be on time. There is much less chance of accidents if you don't have to rush.
- ◆ Do not run after the bus.
- ◆ If you must cross the road/street, look both ways for traffic.
- ◆ If you must walk to the bus stop, use the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk in single line facing traffic.

WAITING FOR THE BUS:

- ◆ Do not play on the street/road.
- ◆ No pushing or shoving.
- ◆ Stay well back from the street/road.
- ◆ When the bus is approaching, line up in single file so that you can be seen.

CROSSING THE ROAD/STREET:

If you must cross the road/street to board the bus:

1. Wait until the red lights on the bus are activated.
2. Wait for the bus driver's signal that it is safe to cross.
3. Look both ways.
4. Walk, DO NOT RUN.



BOARDING THE BUS:

- ◆ Take your time. Do not push or shove.
- ◆ Use the handrail.
- ◆ Go directly to your seats.