

## 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.

**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  
schoolbussafety.ca](http://schoolbussafety.ca)

[Safety Services Nova Scotia  
safetyervicesns.ca](http://safetyervicesns.ca)

[School Transportation Policy  
srce.ca](http://srce.ca)

The following resources may be accessed at [novascotia.ca/coronavirus](http://novascotia.ca/coronavirus):

- [Cough and Sneeze Etiquette](#)
- [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](#)
- [Hand Washing Procedures](#)
- [How to Wear Non-Medical Masks](#)

### EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

902-747-3642

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

304 Pitt Street, Unit 2  
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2T9  
Tel: (902) 625-2191 / 1-800-650-4448  
Fax: (902) 625-2281  
[www.srce.ca /srce@srce.ca](http://www.srce.ca/srce@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 accompany 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 pre-primary children and Grade Primary to 6 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.

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.

Children, 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.

## Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

- As per the Public Health Order, the use of non-medical masks is now required on public transportation including school buses.
- All school bus riders and drivers are required to wear non-medical masks. 
- Children and students are required to wash their hands prior to boarding the bus and after school.
- While riding school buses, children and students from the same household must sit together.
- Families are required to monitor children daily for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school and/or on the school bus and keep children home if they are ill. Please refer to the [COVID-19 Daily Checklist](https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/resources/) available at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/resources/>.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for the safe and timely arrival of the student at the school bus stop and for the student's safe return home from the school bus stop.
- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to supervise students entering, waiting and/or leaving the bus stop.
- The Strait Regional Centre for Education is responsible for student transportation from pick up at the bus stop in the morning until drop off at the bus stop after school.
- The Strait Regional Centre for Education is not responsible for the safety of students on their way to and from or while waiting at the school

Please direct questions to:

Kevin Pierce  
Manager of Transportation  
[kevin.pierce@srce.ca](mailto:kevin.pierce@srce.ca)

## 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.