

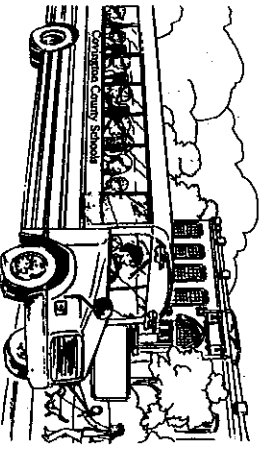
School Bus Safety Tips for Everyone!

School Bus Safety

The transporting of Covington County's schoolchildren must be held to the highest levels of safety. School buses are transporting Covington County's most precious cargo and its future. Children are safer on a school bus than any other mode of transportation. Countywide, the Covington County School System has 48 bus routes traveling approximately 3,400 miles to transport 2,380 students daily. Nationwide and every year, approximately 440,000 public school buses travel an estimated 4.3 billion miles to transport 23.5 million children to and from school and school related activities. Each year on average, 11 passengers under the age of 19 die in school bus-related crashes as compared to 5,500 in other motor vehicles.

School bus safety in Alabama is much higher than the national average. The following safety statistics support this fact:

In Alabama, there are over 8,300 buses providing daily transportation for more than 357,000 schoolchildren. These buses travel an estimated 333,608 miles (one way). School bus-related fatalities are almost non-existent in Alabama. For example, since 1969 only five students riding (inside) an Alabama school bus have been killed in a collision. However, even one death is too many, and that is why educating children, parents, teachers, and school bus drivers are of utmost importance to the Alabama Department of Education. This pamphlet offers safety tips for all involved in order to prevent any school bus-related injuries and/or fatalities of our young children.



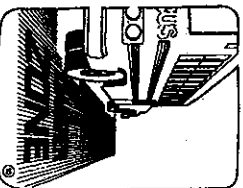
Safety Facts

- Most student fatalities occur outside the bus during loading/unloading.
- The younger the child, the more vulnerable to outside-the-bus fatality.
- Nationally, the afternoon trip home is twice as dangerous as the morning trip to school.

- The most common cause of the outside-the-bus fatality is due to a child bending down to retrieve a dropped item outside the view of the bus driver.

For the Students

- Be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus.
- Use sidewalks and crosswalks when available. If sidewalks are not available, walk on the left side of the street.
- Do not run to or from the bus stop.
- Check traffic carefully before crossing the street and use crosswalks when available.
- Be alert for vehicles in driveways and parking lots.
- Line up away from the street with the first person no closer than ten feet from the roadside.
- Refrain from horseplay while waiting on the bus.
- Do not move toward the bus until the driver has given you permission.



For the Drivers

- Strictly enforce safe crossing procedures with all students at every stop. This includes eye contact, hand signals, student check of traffic, and prearranged horn signal for danger.
- Count and re-count children at every stop, every day.
- Assume the worst with approaching motorists.
- Resist distractions while driving, especially during loading and unloading.

- Remain alert for known danger zones on the route as well as variables such as child's age, weather, running children, and dropped items.
- Never back the bus unless absolutely necessary! Only do so when children are on the bus and proper backing procedures have been followed.
- Proper mirror adjustments are crucial. Check adjustments before every route or trip.

- Resist the temptation to rush.
- Report unsafe loading/unloading areas or stops to your supervisor immediately.
- Be familiar with the use of all safety equipment.

- Complete a thorough pre-trip inspection and document prior to any and all trips.

- Go over rules and safety guidelines with all of the children.

- Always expect the unexpected from children.

- Listen to the children.

- Always perform a thorough post-trip inspection. Be certain no students are left on your bus.

