

# School Bus Safety



## Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law

- ◆ When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.
- ◆ You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- ◆ You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- ◆ **DO NOT MOVE** until all the children have reached a place of safety.
- ◆ You **MUST STOP** on all roadways except when traveling in the opposite direction on a divided or separated highway.
- ◆ You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST** stop.

### ***PENALTIES:***

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law you will receive all the following penalties:

- ◆ 60-day driver's license suspension.
- ◆ Five (5) points on your driving record.
- ◆ \$250 fine.

**F**or 1.5 million students in Pennsylvania, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Before children go back to school or start school for the first time, it is essential that adults and children know traffic safety rules.

## Boarding the School Bus

- ◆ Arrive at the bus stop early, line up single file at least 6 feet off the shoulder of the road or wait on the sidewalk.
- ◆ When the bus comes to a complete stop, board the bus using the handrails.
- ◆ When boarding the bus, let small children get on first.
- ◆ If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.



## Riding the School Bus

- ◆ Sit quietly in your seat so the bus driver is not distracted.
- ◆ Place your bookbag on the floor in front of your seat.
- ◆ Never stand in the bus while it is moving.
- ◆ Obey all rules and follow directions given by the driver at all times.

## Exiting the School Bus

- ◆ Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting out of your seat.
- ◆ Riders closest to the front of the bus should leave first, using the handrail.
- ◆ Be careful that you do not have any long or dangling clothing, backpack straps or scarves dangling as you exit the bus that could get caught in the handrail or door.
- ◆ Move out of the Danger Zone (the space 10 feet around the bus) before beginning to cross the street.
- ◆ Look into the bus driver's eyes to make sure he/she sees you.

- ◆ When he/she says it is okay to cross, walk out to the front of the bus. STOP
- ◆ Look left, right, then left again before stepping out into the street.
- ◆ Keep looking as you cross, until you reach the sidewalk on the other side of the street.

## Primer for Parents

- ◆ Be sure to dress your child properly – warm clothes for cold days (the bus could be late) and bright clothes on dark, rainy days so the child is easily seen.
- ◆ Be sure your child leaves the house early enough to get to the bus stop on time.
- ◆ Be sure your child knows what to do if he or she misses the bus.
- ◆ Safe ridership habits begin at home, and parents can be the best teachers. Go over this brochure with your child.

## Walk Smart in the School Bus Danger Zone

The Danger Zone is the space 10 feet all around the school bus. The bus driver cannot see children and small objects in the Danger Zone. Almost all school bus-related fatalities occur outside the school bus in the loading zone and most happen because motorists illegally pass a school bus.

