

## SCHOOL BUS FACTS

School buses are very safe, but the most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on or off the bus. The loading and unloading area is called the "Danger Zone" and consists of the 10 foot area in front or in back of the bus and 10 feet on either side of the bus.

Half of the pedestrian fatalities in school bus-related crashes are children between the ages of 5 and 7.

## AVOIDING TRAGEDY

Young children are more likely to be struck because they:

- Hurry to get on and off the bus
- Act (or run off) before they think
- Have little experience with traffic
- Assume motorists will see them and wait for them to cross the street
- Don't always stay within the bus operator's sight

## PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN

- If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. NEVER try to pick it up yourself!
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street and danger zone.
- When you get on or off of a bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.
- When the driver says it is safe to cross the street, remember to cross IN FRONT of the bus, NEVER behind the bus.
- Stay in your seat and sit quietly so the driver is not distracted.

## KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

Advise your children that once the bus begins to pull away, they've missed the bus. It is very dangerous for them to chase after the bus because the driver very likely can't see them.

Tell your children to stay at least three giant steps back from the curb or the edge of the street as the bus approaches and remain there until it stops.

Remind your children who need to cross the street to board to wait for a signal from the bus driver and watch for vehicles that might violate the stop arm before crossing. Students must cross perpendicular to the bus, just outside of the crosswalk arm that extends in front of the bus.

Instruct your children to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting off the bus.

If you are concerned for the safety of your children between home and the bus stop, walk with them to the bus stop and stay there until the bus arrives.

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY



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**(850) 469-5591**

M-F 7:00 AM-5:00 PM

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FLASHING RED



KIDS AHEAD

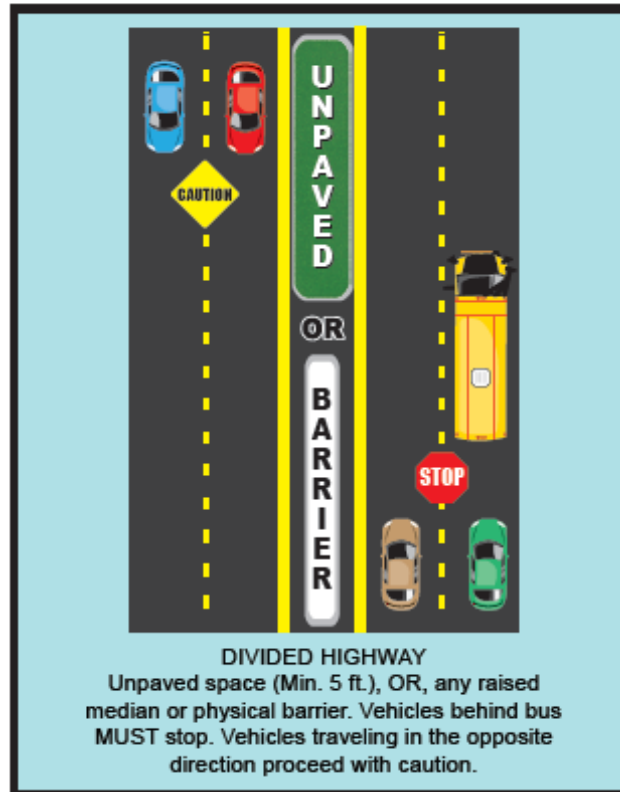
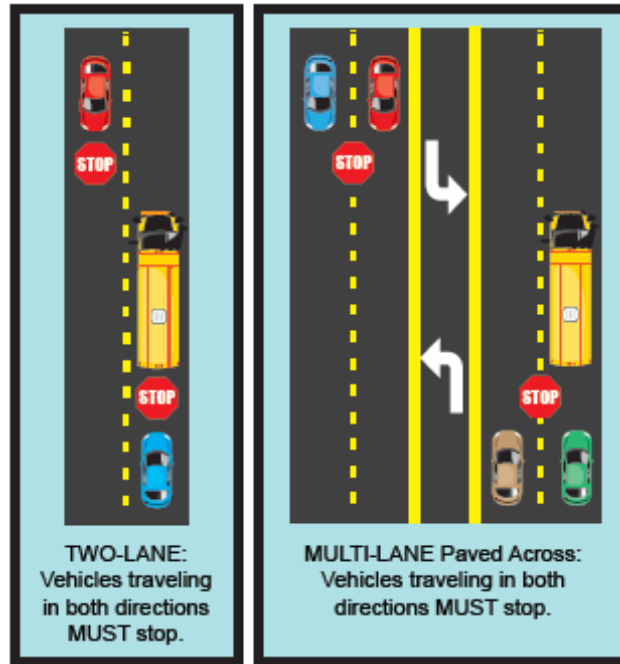
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In a 180-day school year, it is estimated that there are almost 2 million illegal “pass-by’s” of Florida school buses, each representing the possibility of tragic injuries or fatalities to students.

Florida Motor Vehicle Laws require that motorists stop upon approaching any school bus that displays its flashing red lights and has its stop signs extended. Penalties for breaking these laws can include fines, points against your license, and even suspension of your license.

Florida law specifies when you must stop for school buses. If you violate the law you commit a moving violation, for which the penalty may include:

- Payment of a minimum civil penalty of \$165 and incur 4 points against your driver’s license.
- Complete a basic driver improvement course.
- A second offense within five years may result in the suspension of your driver’s license for at least 90 days.
- An illegal pass on the side of the bus where students enter and exit the bus will result in severe penalties, ranging from a minimum fine of \$265 and up to one year license suspension.



### Children Getting on the School Bus



### Children Getting off the School Bus



Remember, the inconvenience of an extra few seconds waiting for a stopped school bus is insignificant compared to the loss of a child’s life.

