



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY GUIDE

**FOR TEACHERS
GRADES 6 TO 12**

**SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
A TEAM EFFORT!**

<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/transport-e.asp>

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Introduction

Teaching staff can play a very important role in raising student awareness about school bus safety.

To this end, the Pupil Transportation Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Education has put together this guide. It contains all the pertinent information you will need to explain the safety rules to students. The information is grouped under the following headings:

- Waiting for the bus
- Getting on the bus
- Riding on the bus
- Getting off the bus
- The danger zone
- In an emergency
- Safety rules and guidelines

This guide is also available on the Pupil Transportation Branch website. On the site you will also find the safety rules and guidelines, the student pamphlet, a quiz and suggestions for awareness-raising activities. Our website can be found at: <http://www.gnb.ca/0000/transport-e.asp>

The Pupil Transportation Branch would like to thank you in advance for your help in promoting school bus safety.

Waiting for the bus

It is important that students wait for the bus at their designated stop. Students must be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives. Here are a few rules students must follow while waiting for the bus:

- Wait for the school bus on the sidewalk or the shoulder of the road. Remain at a safe distance from traffic. Because the road is so close, students must not shove.
- Respect the property where they are waiting.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Avoid clothes or bags with drawstrings. The drawstring could get caught in the handrail or on a seat and cause a fall.
- Do not bring pets or large objects on the bus.
- When the bus arrives, students must get in line.
- Students must wait for the driver's signal before crossing the road.

Getting on the bus

Serious accidents have occurred because students tripped while boarding a bus. These accidents can be avoided if students:

- Make sure the bus has come to a complete stop before approaching it and getting on.
- Do not rush, because the steps could be slippery—especially during the winter. Students should hold the handrail when getting on the bus.
- Once on board, students must sit down without delay so as not to block the aisle.

Suggestions for awareness-raising activities for students in Grades 6 to 12

There are many ways to raise student awareness about school bus safety. Here are a few suggestions.

Quiz- Ask students to answer the questions on the quiz, then go over their answers with them using the answer sheet and the Safety Guide.

Research projects- Encourage students to carry out research projects on school bus safety. They could use the Internet for this.

Videos- Watch videos about school bus safety. These are available from the Department of Education's Instructional Resources branch.

Artwork- Have students create bookmarks, book jackets or posters about school bus safety. Encourage students to incorporate safety slogans and the 5 basic safety rules. Teachers who receive outstanding work are invited to forward it to the Department of Education's Pupil Transportation branch.

Post safety guidelines - Post the safety guidelines in the classroom.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like more information.

Riding on the bus

The driver is responsible for getting students safely to their destination, so students must listen to the driver and do what he or she says.

During the ride, the driver must concentrate on operating the vehicle. It is important that students not distract the driver by talking loudly or shoving other students. Students must follow these rules:

- Sit facing forward. Place your books on your lap or under your seat. Keep the aisle of the bus clear at all times.
- Remain seated throughout the ride and be courteous to other passengers.
- Do not open windows unless the driver gives you permission to do so.
- Do not stick your arms or head outside the bus.
- Do not throw anything out the window, as this could hurt someone who is passing by or cause an accident.
- Speak quietly so as not to distract the driver. If the bus must cross at a railway crossing, keep silent while the bus approaches and crosses it.
- Listen to the driver and do what he or she says.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke on the bus.

Getting off the bus

A very simple action, but one that can have serious consequences if students do not follow these rules:

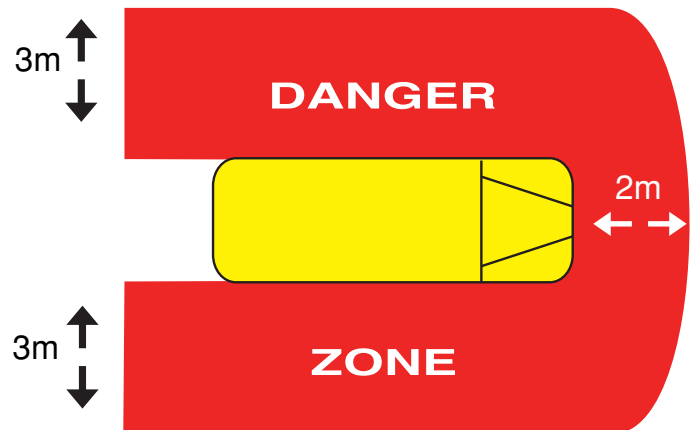
- Remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop. Students seated at the front of the bus must get off first.
- Exit calmly, holding on to the handrail. Make sure nothing gets caught in it.
- Once off the bus, move at least 3 metres in front of it. (This is a bit further than the safety arm when it is extended.)
- Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never cross behind the bus.

DANGER ZONE

The danger zone

Why must you cross 3 metres in front of the bus? When students are 3 metres in front of the bus the driver can see them and signal them to cross.

At less than 3 metres, students are in the danger zone: there's a chance the bus driver won't see them.



In an emergency

- In an emergency, students must immediately follow the driver's instructions.

During the school year, the bus driver will conduct an emergency evacuation exercise. Students must follow the driver's instructions.

Summary

Students must:

- Follow the safety rules and guidelines.
- Be courteous with the driver and the other passengers.
- Set a good example for the younger ones.
- In an emergency, follow the driver's instructions and promptly provide any help asked of you.

School bus rules and guidelines

The following rules are posted in the bus and must be observed by all passengers:

Persons who cause damage to a bus will be held responsible for their actions. Failure to observe rules and guidelines will result in disciplinary action and possible loss of transportation privileges.



School Bus Safety guidelines



1. **Obey the driver promptly.**
2. Avoid any unnecessary conversation with the driver while the bus is in motion.
3. **Respect the driver and fellow passengers.**
4. Arrive on time and stand away from the roadway while waiting for the school bus.
5. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before moving to get on.
6. When crossing the road, wait for the driver's signal and always cross at least 3 metres in front of the bus. **NEVER CROSS BEHIND THE BUS.**
7. Always keep a safe distance around the school bus.
8. Go directly to your seat; allow others to sit with you. **Remain seated.**
9. Sit facing forward, with your belongings on your lap or under the seat. **Keep the aisle clear.**
10. Obtain approval of the driver to open windows or emergency door. Nothing must hang out or be thrown out of the windows of the bus.
11. **Talk quietly.** Silence is required when approaching a railway crossing.
12. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus. Use of tobacco is forbidden.
13. Neither pets nor large objects are allowed on the bus.
14. Anyone who intentionally damages the bus will be held responsible.
15. Dress according to weather conditions. For safety reasons, avoid drawstrings or loose objects on clothing and backpacks.

Violation may result in disciplinary action and possible loss of transportation