

## **Roseville Area Schools School Bus Safety Home Training Lesson**

Minnesota State law requires that school bus safety education be taught in schools during the first weeks of school. The law also suggests that young students receive school bus safety training before they come to school the first day. As a parent, you are your child's most influential teacher. We ask that you teach your child about school bus safety. The information below will help you explain to your child how to be safe on and around the bus. Spend some time with your child on these points. Explain the reasons why they are important, and go over them again three or four times on different days so that your child will have a safer bus ride when school starts.

**Secondary drivers who will be driving when there are school buses on the road should read this as well, so that they are aware that small children might be on the roads when they are driving after school.**

Thank you. Jan Vanderwall and Jim Monroe

### **Bus Safety Guidelines**

1. **Be ready for the bus at the scheduled time.** Bus times are set based on the streets that they run on and with a standard loading time. If a student is late to the stop, and the bus has to wait, the bus will be late to all the rest of the stops and to school. Bus riders who are late to their stops often don't act safely, and are in more danger than if they were there on time.
2. **Wait until bus is stopped before moving toward the bus and getting on.** Often students get anxious as the bus arrives, so they run forward while the bus is still moving. This is a dangerous practice because a student could slip or fall in front of the bus.
3. **After getting on the bus, go to a seat, sit down and stay seated.** Law requires that students be seated while a bus is moving. Students should sit down quickly so that the bus runs on time. If a student falls down, or is knocked around by the movement of the bus, this could cause injury.
4. **Remain quiet on the bus, so you don't distract the driver.** While the bus is moving, kids often talk, and that is OK unless it gets too loud. When the bus is loud the driver can't hear important things like sirens or train whistles, or can be distracted by having to pay attention to the kids and miss something important like a stoplight, or a car coming from another direction.
5. **Do what the driver tells you to do.** The driver is in charge of the bus, and sometimes has to tell students to be quiet, or to sit down, or to wait to get on or off of the bus. The driver is trying to keep students safe, and so kids should do what he or she says.
6. **Make sure that you get on the right bus - know your bus numbers.** The bus which takes a student to school may be different than the one that brings her or him home. A student should always know the bus number which will bring her/him home because that is the one at school where there may be other buses to choose from.
7. **Always carry your bus card.** The bus card provided by the school contains the student's name, what buses he/she rides, and where the bus stop is. If there is a question about what the bus or bus stop is, the student should get out the bus card and show it to the driver or teacher. This should be carried in the back pack all the time.

8. **Be ready to get off the bus when it gets near your stop, but do not get up until the bus stops at your stop.** Many times, young students get so involved in a conversation or the ride that they forget to watch for their stop. When they arrive they aren't ready to pickup their backpack and get off of the bus. This delays the bus and makes everybody else late. If the student misses his or her stop the bus has to go back to the stop, making the bus late to all the other stops.
  
9. **After getting off of the bus, walk away from the bus. Don't stay near it. If you have to cross the street, go at least 5 big steps in front of the bus, and wait until the driver waves for you to cross the street. If there are older children crossing at your bus stop, younger students should cross the street with them as well. NEVER GO BACK TO THE BUS AFTER YOU GET OFF OF IT. IF YOU DROP SOMETHING, WAIT UNTIL THE BUS IS GONE, AND THEN GET YOUR MOM OR DAD TO GO WITH YOU TO GET IT.** This is the most important instruction on this page. According to statistics, this is the area where most student fatalities occur.

The **three key points** are:

**Go 5 big steps in front of the bus,  
Wait until the driver tells you to cross. And,  
Never go back to the bus.**

Even if your student doesn't have to cross in front of the bus (we try to avoid it), please take time to talk to your student about these points. Routes may change with new riders or at the beginning of a new school year.

If you have any questions regarding bus routes or bus safety please contact the Roseville Area Schools Transportation Department at 651-635-1638.

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