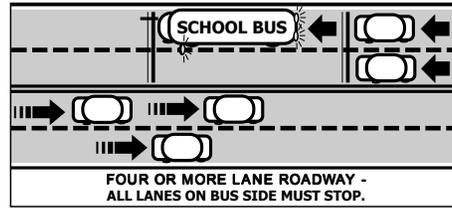


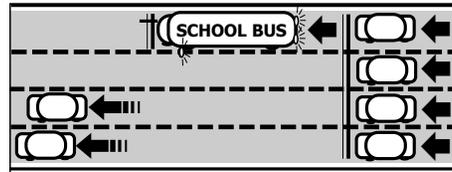


## Railroad Crossings:

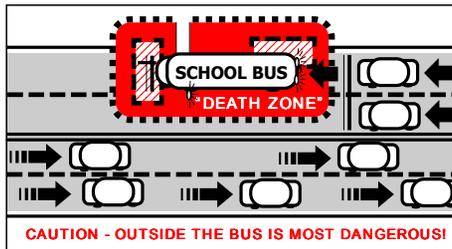
State law requires school buses to stop for all railroad crossings. The school bus will display the hazard warning lights as it stops momentarily to determine if it is safe to cross. If you are approaching the bus from the front, you may proceed past with caution. If you are approaching the bus from the rear, the law prohibits driving over the center line to pass if the bus is within 100 feet of a railroad crossing. For safety, always leave plenty of room for the bus to maneuver or back up in case of an emergency.



When a school bus is traveling on a four-lane roadway with at least two lanes of traffic traveling in the opposite direction, only those lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction as the school bus **must stop**. Pupils shall not be required to cross four or more lanes of traffic to reach their residence.

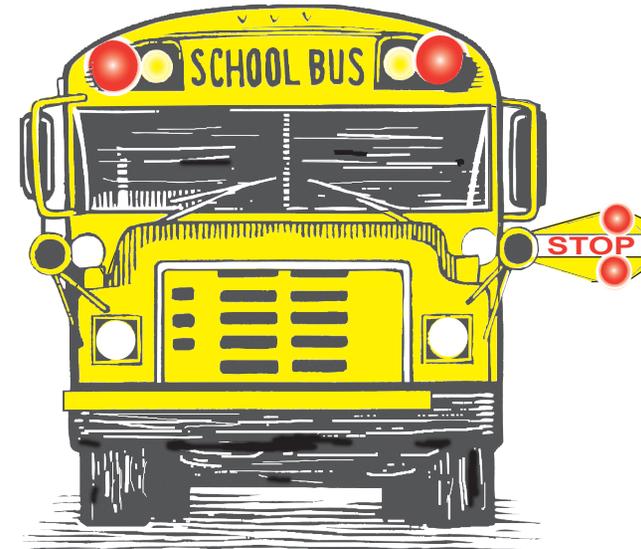


When a school bus is traveling on a one-way roadway and is stopped to pick up or drop off pupils, **all lanes of traffic must stop, regardless of the number of lanes of traffic.**



**CAUTION:** The majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are not injured or killed on the school bus, but outside the bus. Most of them are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm. This area around the bus is often referred to as the "DEATH ZONE."

# School Bus Safety



## Bus Drivers/Teachers

Bus safety will be considered important to students if bus drivers/teachers show an interest and emphasize its importance. Rules of conduct on the bus and principles of walking safely when loading and unloading should be discussed in class periodically. Students should be cautioned not to play while the bus is operating or while waiting at the designated stop. Students should also be advised to follow the directions of the bus driver. When boarding the bus, they should only cross the street upon the signal of the driver or crossing guard. Once aboard, passengers should practice "classroom behavior" to keep distractions for the bus driver to a minimum.

For more information, or to request a safety presentation, please send an email to the ISP Safety Education Unit at:

[ISP.Safety.Education@illinois.gov](mailto:ISP.Safety.Education@illinois.gov)

or contact your local ISP Troop:

<https://isp.illinois.gov/Patrol/TroopMap>

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois  
ISP Central Printing Section  
ISP 5-542 (7/21) 5M  
[isp.illinois.gov](http://isp.illinois.gov)

Printed by the Authority of State of Illinois 06/23 5M IOCI 23-1503



Motorists may proceed after stopping for a bus if one of the following occurs: the bus resumes motion, the bus driver signals the motorist to proceed, or the flashing lights are turned off and the stop arm signal is no longer extended.



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, The school bus is the safest vehicle on the road—your child is much safer taking a bus to and from school than traveling by car. A child's safety depends upon the school bus driver to properly operate the bus and ensure the special visual bus signals are in good working order. Safety also depends heavily on motorists' obedience to the laws for approaching a school bus when loading or unloading passengers, regardless of location.

## RISKY BUSINESS FOR MOTORISTS PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

What is the most dangerous part of the school bus ride? The bus stop! Children are at greatest risk when they are getting on or off the school bus. Most of the children killed in bus-related crashes are pedestrians, five to seven years old, who are getting on or off the bus. They are hit by the school bus or by motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus. In neighborhoods, near schools, and at bus stops, drivers need to take special care because children do not behave like adults.

### Penalties for Illegally Passing a school bus

**First offense** - mandatory minimum fine of \$300 and 3-month suspension of driver's license.  
**Second offense or subsequent conviction within five years** - mandatory minimum fine of \$1,000 and one year suspension of driver's license. A motorist cited for illegally passing a school bus is not eligible for court supervision.



If red lights are flashing, **STOP!** They show that children are getting on or off the bus and may be crossing the street.

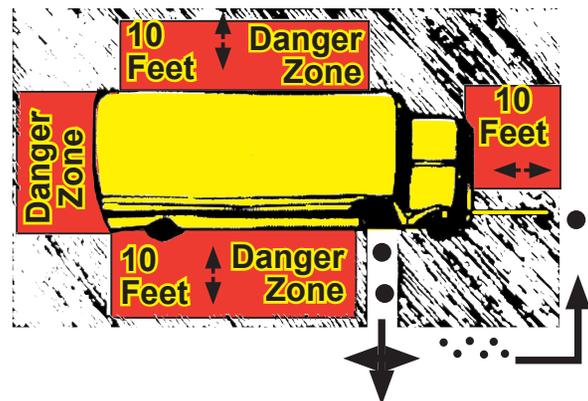
### Elementary school children

- Become easily distracted and may start across the street without warning.
- Don't understand the danger of moving vehicles.
- Can't judge vehicle speed or distance.
- May be blocked from view by the bus.

**Most importantly,** children expect vehicles to stop for them at the school bus stop.

### CAUTION:

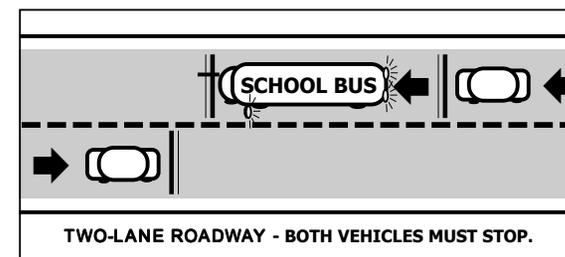
The majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are injured outside the bus. Most are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm. This area around the bus is often referred to as the **"DANGER ZONE."**



## THE MOTORING PUBLIC

### LAWS

The laws regarding vehicles stopping for school buses can be found in the Illinois Vehicle Code under sections 625 ILCS 5/11-1414, 5/11-1415, 5/12-803, 5/12-805 and 5/12-807.2. These laws apply to all drivers, including those on school property, who meet or overtake a school bus that is operating all of the appropriate warning signals indicating that pupils are exiting or boarding the school bus and may be crossing the roadway. When a school bus is traveling on a two-lane roadway and is stopped to pick up or drop off pupils, the vehicles in all lanes of traffic must stop. Vehicles should stop at least 20 feet before reaching the school bus to allow pupils to cross the roadway safely.



When a school bus is traveling on a **two-lane roadway** and is stopped to pick up or drop off pupils, the vehicles in all lanes of traffic **must stop**. Vehicles should stop at least 20 feet before reaching the school bus to allow pupils to cross the roadway safely.