

August is upon us and the first day of school will soon be here. It's a time when parents breathe a sigh of relief and students and teachers anticipate new beginnings and new challenges. School Bus Drivers start to think about how they can keep students as safe as possible. So, as schools open their doors, it's time for everyone to improve their traffic safety practices. The following tips can help make this a safe and happy school year:

- **Michigan law requires motorists to stop for a bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers:**
 - Overhead yellow lights are flashing – prepare to stop.
 - Overhead red lights are flashing – stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
 - Red lights are turned off – proceed with caution.
 - Buses are allowed to use their yellow hazard lights for loading/unloading students on the right (door side) but the bus must be pulled to the far right side (shoulder) of the highway allowing traffic to flow unobstructed if the speed limit is over 45 mph. Motorists do not have to stop for bus hazard lights but slow down and proceed with caution! This is a stop only approved by the Supervisor and the Board of Education.
- **Be Alert! Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks. Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic. When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.**
- **When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young drivers who may be in a hurry to get to school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.**
- **Supervise children at the school bus stop. Make sure they arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes early.**
- **While waiting for the bus, make sure children stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.**
- **Before approaching the bus, children must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the door opens.**
- **Schools prefer that children not wear clothing with drawstrings or carry book bags with straps or dangling objects because they can get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.**

It's our job as parents and educators to help our children learn and practice safety rules for walking, bicycling, or riding in a passenger car, school bus or public transportation bus. Let's all do what we can to keep our children safe this school year!

School buses are the safest form of highway transportation. So, please, put your kids on the bus and award them the safest way to school!

"Ensure Learning for All"

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