



Loading & Unloading



1. School Buses (The Largest Group)

This is the largest public transit fleet in the country and nearly all of them are active during the morning school window. 

- **Total US Fleet:** There are over **480,000 yellow school buses** nationwide. 
- **Morning Operations:** Nearly all routes are completed between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to get **26 million students** to school.
- **Estimate:** It is highly likely that **300,000 to 450,000** of these buses are actively on the road, loading, unloading, and driving during that two-hour window.



The Estimated Number of Illegal Passes

In a single school day across the United States, the total number of vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses is estimated to be over 200,000 violations. [🔗](#)

To break this down for the specific 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (Morning Commute) window:

What's your defense?

School Buses = Kids



Amber Lights

SLOW DOWN

prepare to stop



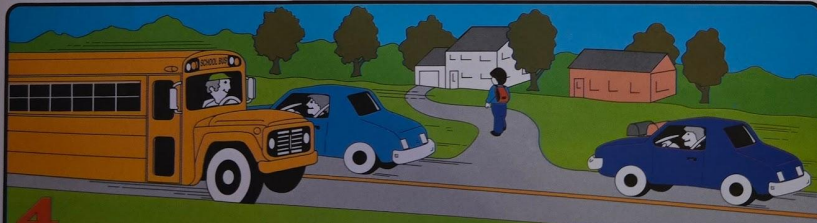
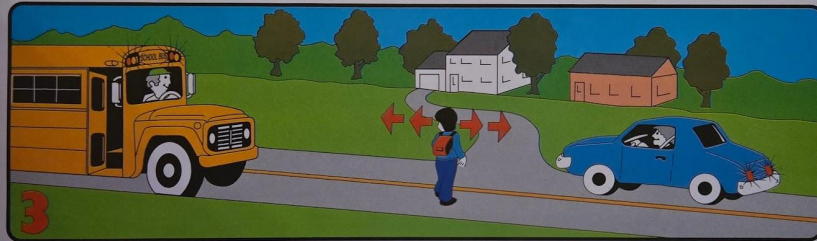
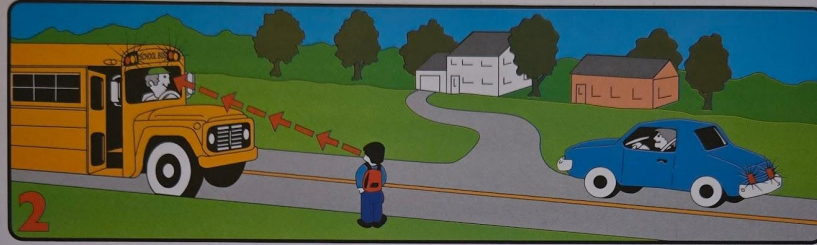
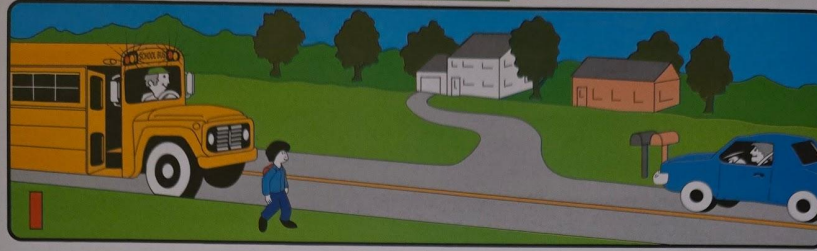
Red Lights

STOP

when bus is in front
or oncoming



HOW TO CROSS SAFELY





Critical Safety Procedures Checklist

1. The Approach (Warning Motorists)

- **Activate Amber Warning Lights:** Turn on your amber (yellow) pre-warning lights approximately 200 feet (about 5-7 seconds) before the stop (the exact distance may be determined by state or district policy). This is the first signal to traffic that you are preparing to stop.

2. Securing the Bus (Mandatory Steps)

- **Brake and Gear:** Once stopped, place the transmission in **Neutral** and **set the Parking Brake**. This secures the vehicle and ensures it cannot move accidentally.
- **Activate Safety System:** Activate your **Red Flashing Lights** and extend the **Stop-Arm**. This legally obligates all surrounding traffic to stop.
- **Check Traffic:** Before opening the door, perform a full and thorough check of all mirrors (cross-view, left, right) to confirm that **all traffic has stopped** in both directions. Never open the door if a vehicle is visibly approaching and not slowing down.

3. Loading/Unloading (Driver Control)

- **Signal to Students:** Open the door only when you have confirmed traffic has stopped. Use a clear, consistent hand signal (or verbal command) to indicate that students should approach the bus. **The door opening itself is the final signal.**
- **Handrail Use:** Instruct and enforce the use of the handrail for both entering and exiting the bus to prevent falls.
- **Monitor and Account (The Count):**
 - **Loading:** Count students as they board.
 - **Unloading:** Count students as they exit and watch to ensure they are safely across the street or onto the curb and **10-12 feet away** from the bus.

4. Students Crossing the Street (The Most Critical Step)

- **Eye Contact:** For crossing students, ensure they stop at the edge of the bus, **establish direct eye contact** with you, and look for your signal.
- **Crossing Signal:** When you have confirmed the road is absolutely clear, give your predetermined signal (a consistent hand sweep, point, or nod) for them to cross.
- **Students Cross and Clear:** Instruct them to walk at least **10 feet** in front of the bus as they cross.

5. Departure (Final Checks)

- **Final Count Check:** Do not move the bus until you can **visually account for every student**—either safely seated inside or safely clear of the Danger Zone outside.
- **Clearance Check:** Close the door and retract the stop-arm and red lights. Perform a **final, mandatory check of all mirrors** (especially the crossover mirrors) for any student running back, dropping an item, or hidden in a blind spot.
- **If a Student is Missing: NEVER** move the bus if you cannot account for a student. Secure the bus (turn off engine, take the key) and exit the bus to perform a final check around and underneath the vehicle.
- **Proceed:** When completely clear, release the parking brake and proceed cautiously.







