

# School Bus Safety



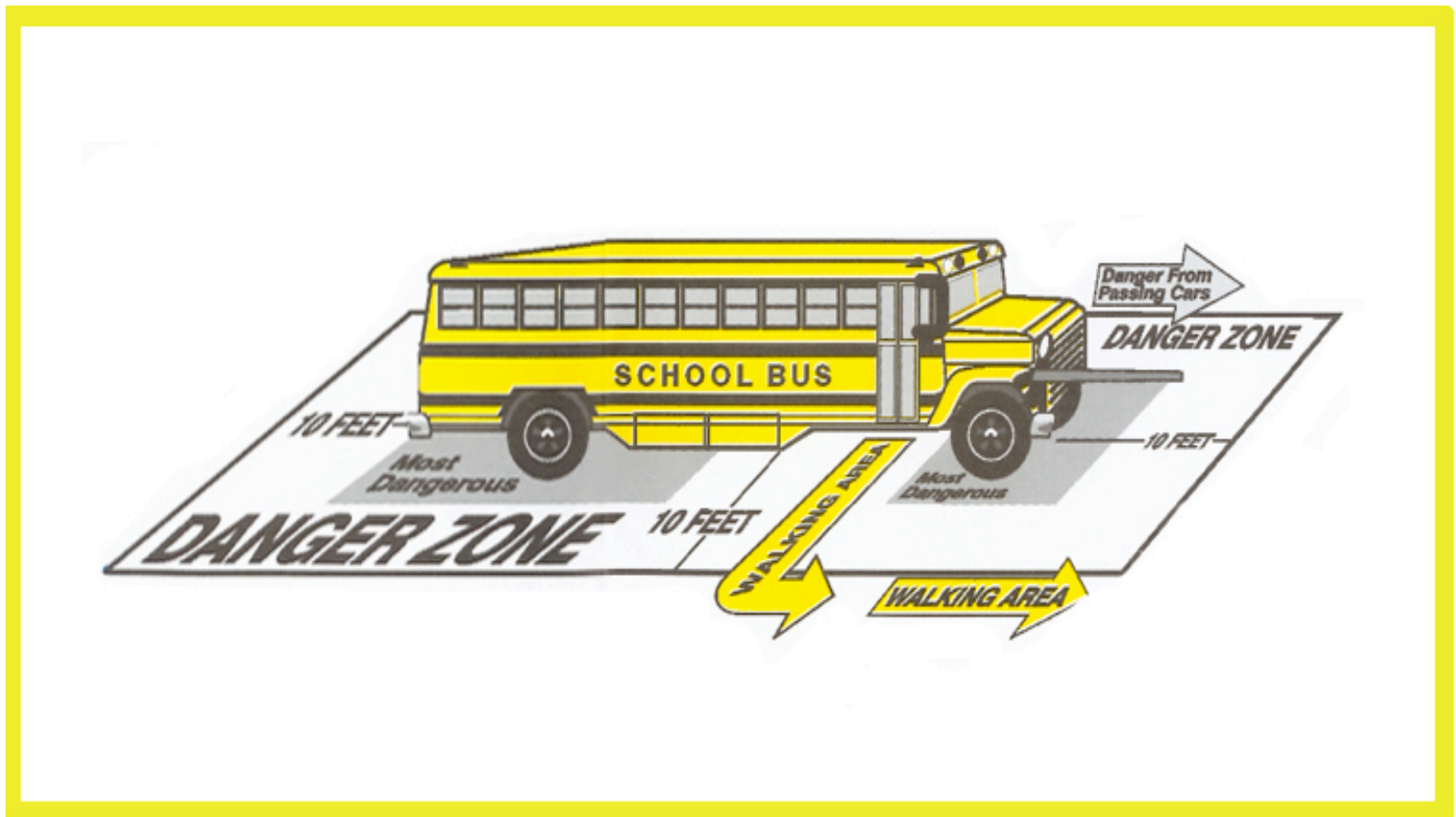
*For Kids and Parents*

# *Tips For Kids*

1. **Always** be at your bus stop on time. **Never** run in front of or next to a moving bus and **never** stand behind your bus.
2. Wait in line for the school bus. **Don't** play in the street. **Don't** push or shove.
3. **Wait for the bus to stop completely** and the door has opened before you step off the curb. Always stay away from the wheels. Get on the bus in a single line using the handrail.
4. Always find your seat quickly. While riding the bus, stay seated, face forward, and keep the aisles clear. Talk quietly.
5. **Listen** to your bus driver.
6. **Never** put your head or arms out of the window.
7. Know where the emergency exits are. But do not play with them.
8. **Never** throw things on the bus.
9. **Wait** for the bus to stop completely before leaving your seat. Then get off the bus in single file. Use the handrail when you get off the bus and be careful that your backpack or jacket does not get caught in the handrail or bus door.
10. When you get off of the bus, take five giant steps away from the bus, out of the danger zone. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and be sure that you can see the bus driver's eyes. If you can't see the bus driver, then your bus driver can't see you.
11. **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** run back to retrieve a forgotten item or to pick up something that you have dropped near or under the bus. Never bend down near or under the bus.
12. If you have to cross in front of the bus, always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus and make sure that the bus driver can see you. Wait for the driver's signal to cross. Look both ways. Cross the street carefully and don't run.

Avoid the Danger Zone. It's difficult for your bus driver to see you in this area.

Take 10 giant steps beyond the front of the bus before you turn to cross the street. This lets the bus driver maintain eye contact with you.



## *Tips For Parents*

1. Check your child's clothing for loose drawstrings or other items that might become caught in handrails, such as scarves, belts, sashes and other loose clothing. If necessary, remove loose drawstrings. Check your child's backpack for any key chains and other dangling objects that might get caught in a door or handrail. Backpacks should fit snugly against your child's body.
2. Assure your child that you won't be upset if he or she doesn't retrieve a jacket or backpack left on the bus or school work dropped under a wheel. Too often children run back to the bus because they have forgotten or dropped something. They think they will be scolded for losing it. Unfortunately, the bus driver may not see them and they may be severely injured.
3. Urge your school to set up bus safety education classes for kids.
4. Make a point of meeting your child's school bus driver. Make sure that your child carries a "contact in case of emergency" card with information about allergies and medications.
5. Arrive five minutes before the bus is supposed to get there. Many children are injured as they run to catch up with a moving school bus.
6. If your child has to meet the bus in the morning when it is dark or if your child comes home at dusk, have your child wear bright or reflective clothing.
7. Don't buy your child a raincoat that is yellow. Pick another color. Yellow raincoats have a tendency to blend in with the yellow school bus, making it hard for motorists to see your child.

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