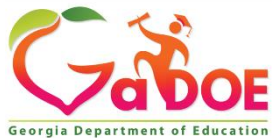


# Protecting 100% of our students 100% of the time!



In Consultation with the Pupil Transportation  
Division  
Georgia State Department of Education

Student well-being depends on all of us choosing to work together by making good choices that protect them. Isn't that a commitment we can all make?

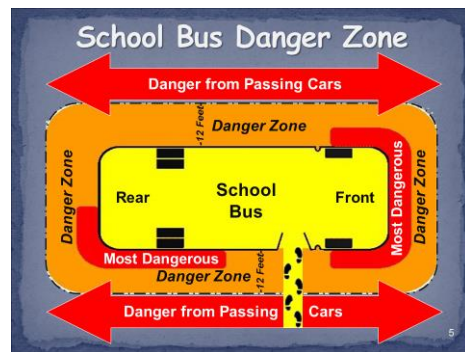
Sometimes a lack of understanding can be a barrier to achieving mutually accepted goals. Do you understand what is needed to protect each and every student who rides a school bus?

The purpose of this brochure is to equip everyone to participate in protecting 100% of our students 100% of the time. Learn about school bus safety and apply what you've learned to protect students. Won't you please join us?

## What is the "Danger Zone?"

The Danger Zone is the 12 foot area that surrounds a stopped school bus, where your school bus driver might not see you. Twelve feet equals 4 giant steps for elementary school students.

- Stay away from the most dangerous areas at the front of the bus, around both front tires, at the entrance door and around the right rear tires.
- Make sure you are always able to see the bus driver when outside the bus. If you can see the driver, then they can see you. You must never go behind the school bus!
- Be aware of the danger of passing cars that do not stop like they should. The danger may be from cars passing from both the front and rear and on both the left and right sides of the school bus.



Always use caution and respect the 12 foot "Danger Zone."

## What does SOAR mean?

"SOAR" stands for riding the school bus to school . . . **S**afely, **O**rdery **A**nd **R**espectfully!

Your parents expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful. Your teachers expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful too, in and around the school bus!

## What should I do if I leave something on the bus or if I drop something?

- NEVER return to the bus for something you left behind and NEVER pick up something you dropped outside the bus without getting the bus driver's attention.
- Leave any object and move to a point outside the 12 foot Danger Zone.
- Get the bus driver's attention by putting your hands and arms above your head and waving. Make it a HUGE signal so the driver will see you!

d) Wait for the bus driver to see you and give you instructions before returning to the bus or before picking up anything dropped near the bus.

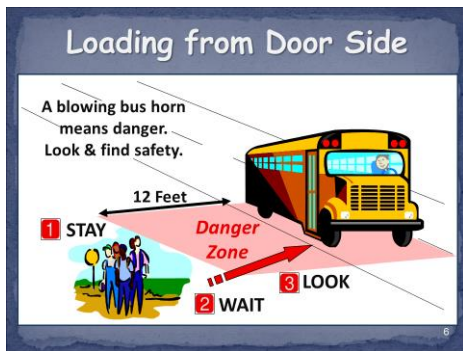
e) Remember, if you do not get the driver's attention, stay out of the Danger Zone! Go home and ask your parent(s) to help you!

## SAFE BUS STOP BEHAVIORS:

- Get up and get ready on time.
- Have all items in your book bag before you leave home so you do not drop anything.
- Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to come.
- Wait at the bus stop in a safe place, 12 feet off the roadway where possible.
- Stay on your side of the road until the bus arrives.
- Wait in an orderly group. Form an orderly line as the bus approaches, with the first student standing 12 feet away from traffic where possible.
- Keep electronic equipment packed away as you prepare to board. Never use an electronic device or wear ear buds when boarding. You must be able to hear.
- Return home and get help or phone for assistance if you miss the bus.
  - NEVER chase after the bus.
  - NEVER walk to another bus stop.
  - NEVER allow your parents to drive you to another bus stop. **Your bus driver will not be expecting you!**

## LOADING FROM THE DOOR SIDE:

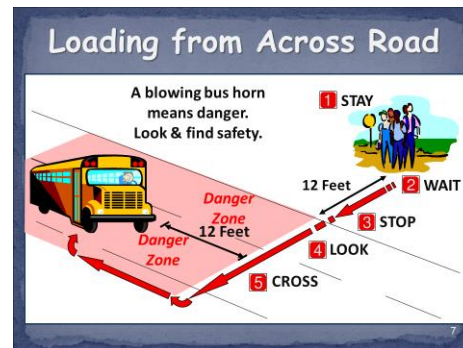
- STAY** on your side of the road until the bus comes.
- STAY** at least 12 feet away from the edge of the road where possible.
- WAIT** for the bus to stop and for the door to open.
- LOOK** and **WAIT** for all traffic to stop before stepping towards the bus. The stop arm is asking cars to stop, but they may not stop. If you see a car moving, do not move forward until it has stopped.
- Continue to **LOOK** in both directions for moving cars as you walk straight towards the bus door. Be sure your bus driver can see you.
- Stay away from the front and rear bus tires and board the bus without delay.



- The signal for danger is the continuous blowing of the bus horn. If you hear the bus horn blow, look for dangerous vehicles and get out of the way.

## LOADING FROM ACROSS ROAD:

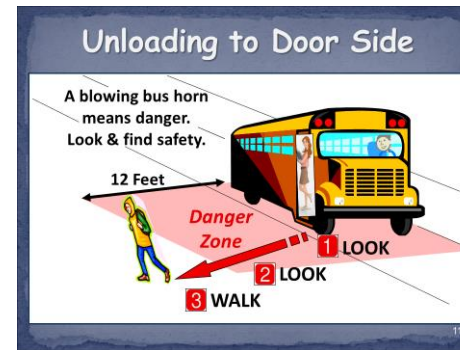
- STAY** on your side of the road, 12 feet away from traffic where possible.
- WAIT** for the bus to stop and the stop arm to extend. Wait for your bus driver's signal before you begin to cross. When you get to the edge of the road . . .
- STOP** walking before stepping into the roadway and **LOOK** both ways for moving traffic. If a car is moving, do not step into the road. When it is OK . . .
- LOOK** for moving traffic both ways as you walk directly across the road.
- CROSS** 12 feet in front of the bus in full view of your driver. Be careful in the danger zone and board the bus without delay.



- Use the handrail and go directly to your seat!
- Remember, if the bus driver sees an approaching danger with either their direct vision or with their mirrors, they will use their horn to signal danger.

## UNLOADING TO THE DOOR SIDE:

- Remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Wait in the aisle until the bus driver tells you it is OK to begin to exit.
- When you are on the steps, **LOOK** for moving traffic in all directions, especially to your right, before you leave the bus. Cars sometimes pass the bus on the right side. When it is OK, continue to . . .

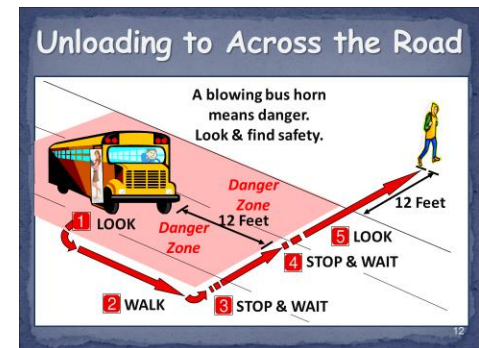


- LOOK** both ways for moving traffic as you . . .
- WALK** straight away from the bus, in full view of your driver. Keep walking until you get out of the danger zone, 12 feet away from the bus.

- If you hear the bus horn blowing, it's a warning signal. Find the danger and move away!

## UNLOADING TO ACROSS ROAD:

- Remain seated until the bus completely stops and wait in the aisle until you get the driver's "OK" to begin to exit.
- While still on the steps **LOOK** for moving cars in all directions, especially the right, before you step off the bus.
- WALK** straight away from the right front of the bus in full view of your driver, going past the end of the bus crossing gate. Be very careful in the danger zone!
- STOP** and face the center of the road. **WAIT** for your bus driver to signal when it is safe to begin to cross. Then look for moving cars as you walk to the center of the road.



- STOP** there and **WAIT** again for your driver's 2<sup>nd</sup> signal that it is safe to finish crossing.

- Continue to **LOOK** for moving traffic as you promptly cross and exit 12 feet off the road.

- A blowing bus horn means danger. Find the danger and get out of the way.