

School Bus Safety Rules

 eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/transportation/article/school-bus-safety-rules

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Local programs that offer transportation services must provide training for parents and children on pedestrian safety and riding practices. Program directors and staff can refer to this resource to further their understanding of what must be emphasized in transportation and pedestrian safety education of children and parents. The training provided to children must be developmentally appropriate and an integral part of their program's experiences.

For some 22 million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. Unfortunately, each year many children are injured and several are killed in school bus incidents.

School bus related crashes killed 164 persons and injured an estimated 18,000 persons nationwide in 1999, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and General Estimates System (GES).

Over the past six years, about 70 percent of the deaths in fatal school bus related crashes were occupants of vehicles other than the school bus and 20 percent were pedestrians. About 4 percent were school bus passengers and 2 percent were school bus drivers. Of the pedestrians killed in school bus related crashes over this period, approximately 77 percent were struck by the school bus. Of the people injured in school bus related crashes from 1994 through 1999, about 44 percent were school bus passengers, 9 percent were school bus drivers, and another 43 percent were occupants of other vehicles.

Although drivers of all vehicles are required to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load or unload passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Safety Council encourages parents to teach their children these rules for getting on and off the school bus.

Rules for getting on and off the school bus

- **Getting on the school bus**
 - When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
 - Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
 - Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
 - Use the hand rail when stepping onto the bus.
- **Behavior on the bus**
 - When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed.
 - Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
 - Keep aisles clear -- books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
 - Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
 - At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit, using the hand rail.

- **Getting off the school bus**

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.

- **Correct way to cross the street**

- Children should always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing.
- They should continue looking in this manner until they are safely across.
- If students' vision is blocked by a parked car or other obstacle, they should move out to where drivers can see them and they can see other vehicles -- then stop, and look left-right-left again.

Read more:

[Transportation](#)

[Transportation safety](#)

Last Updated: March 6, 2020

Pedestrian Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe while walking.

Whether your kids are walking to school, the park or a friend's house, here are a few simple tips to make sure they get there safely.

Teach Kids How to Walk Safely

- Teach kids at an early age to look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Then remind them to continue looking around until safely across.
- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Children under 10 need to cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, most kids are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until age 10.
- Encourage kids to be especially alert for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Teach kids not to run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- If kids are walking when it's dark out, teach them to be especially alert and make sure they are visible to drivers. Have them wear light- or brightly-colored clothing and reflective gear.



- Put headphones down or turn off the volume before crossing the street.
- Be aware of others who may be distracted and speak up when you see someone who is in danger.
- If kids need to use a cell phone, teach them to stop walking and find a safe area to talk.



44 kids are hit by a car while walking every day in the U.S.

Let Your Actions Speak as Loudly as Your Words

- Be a good role model. Set a good example by putting your phone, headphones and devices down when walking around cars.
- When driving, put cell phones and other distractions in the back seat or out of sight until your final destination.
- Be especially alert and slow down when driving in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Be on the lookout for bikers, walkers or runners who may be distracted or may step into the street unexpectedly.
- Give pedestrians the right of way and look both ways when making a turn to spot any bikers, walkers or runners who may not be immediately visible.

Take Action Against Distraction

- Teach kids to put phones, headphones and devices down when crossing the street. It is particularly important to reinforce the message with teenagers.



Keep Me in a Safe Seat

SAFETY SEAT GUIDELINES



Newborn-2 years

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Illinois law will require children under age 2 to be properly secured in a rear-facing child restraint system unless they weigh more than 40 pounds or are more than 40 inches tall. Children must remain rear-facing until age 2.

Children riding rear-facing may use a rear-facing-only car seat or a convertible car seat installed rear-facing. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a rear-facing installation.



Ages 2-4

Children should remain rear-facing as long as possible and may be transitioned to a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness system. Always follow the car seat manufacturers harnessing instructions and height and weight limitations for a forward-facing installation. Children should be secured in a forward-facing seat with an internal harness system until they reach the upper height or weight limit allowed by the seat manufacturer.

A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limit a child's forward movement during a crash.



Ages 4-8

When children outgrow the forward-facing seat, they may transition to a belt-positioning booster seat.

A belt-positioning booster seat positions the seat belt so it fits properly over the stronger parts of a child's body.



Ages 8-12

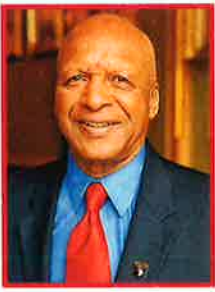
Children should stay in a belt-positioning booster seat until they can fit properly in an adult lap/shoulder seat belt.

An adult lap/shoulder seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

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As a parent and grandparent, I cannot stress the importance of making sure our children are properly secured in the appropriate child safety seats. Automobile crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children.

Our children deserve the best protection while riding in a vehicle. The best way to keep a child safe in the car is to use the right car seat in the right way. The reverse side of this card provides more information for safely securing your child in your vehicle.

Remember that children and airbags do not mix – the safest place for young passengers is in the back seat.

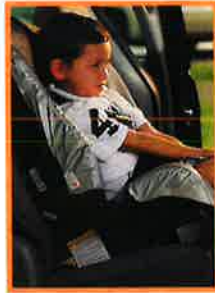
The Secretary of State's office provides car safety seat inspections at several Driver Services facilities throughout the state. I encourage you to visit one of these facility fitting stations to ensure your child's safety seat is installed properly and meets manufacturers height and weight guidelines for safe traveling. Making sure your car seat is properly installed will give you peace of mind that your little ones are well-protected.

Also, remember Illinois requires **ALL** passengers to be buckled up, regardless of their age or where they sit in the vehicle.

Be a good example, buckle up!

Jesse White

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State



IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

Select a car seat that fits a child's age and size and that can be safely secured in your vehicle.

Keep children in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least age 2.

Never install a rear-facing seat in front of an active airbag.

Keep children in the back seat until they reach age 13.

Know the history of your safety seat.

Do not use a safety seat that is more than 6-years-old or past the expiration date stamped on the seat.

Register your safety seat with the manufacturer so you will be notified of any recalls. You can also check for recalls at www.safercar.gov.

Do not attach anything to the car safety seat unless the manufacturer allows its use. This includes toys, mirrors, window shades and belt tightening tools.

All objects in the vehicle should be stowed in the trunk or tied down. They can be projectiles if a crash or sudden stop occurs.

REMEMBER

Illinois law requires all children under age 8 to be secured in an appropriate child safety seat.

For more information or to schedule a car seat inspection or installation, please call:

1-866-247-0213