

# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY - IF EVERYONE DOES THEIR PART . . .



## IF KIDS DO THEIR PART . . .

- Be on time.
- Don't crowd or push other students at the bus stop.
- If you must cross the road to get to or from your bus stop, wait for the school bus driver's signal. Look both ways for traffic and then cross at least 3 metres/10 feet in front of the bus and ahead of the extended crossing arm.
- NEVER cross the road BEHIND the school bus.
- Stay in your seat for the whole trip.
- Don't distract the driver, yell, or talk loudly.
- Don't open the windows without the driver's permission and never stick your head, arms, hands, or feet out the windows.
- Don't eat on the bus.
- Always obey the driver's instructions.
- Use the handrail when getting on or off the bus.
- Always be careful around a school bus. **REMEMBER THAT THE FRONT AND RIGHT SIDE OF THE BUS ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS AREAS!**
- Once you get off the school bus, move quickly away from the bus to a safe location.



## AND IF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS DO THEIR PART . . .

- Ensure you are physically and mentally able to perform your duties as a school bus driver.
- Perform thorough pre-trip inspections to ensure your school bus is in safe mechanical condition.
- Take a moment to consider the driving conditions you will face on route. If you must choose between arriving late or driving too fast for conditions, choose to adjust your speed and schedule.
- Ensure you know the "rules of the road", and have a good understanding of government regulations and school division policies.
- Have a friendly, but professional relationship with your passengers.
- Work cooperatively with parents, supervisors, and co-workers.
- Statistics show that students are more often injured outside the school bus than while on board. Be extra vigilant at pick-up and drop-off locations.
- Keep track of the number of students getting off the bus and ensure they have all reached a safe location before pulling away. Double check the danger zones around the bus by checking all your mirrors.
- If confronted by an emergency situation, know what to do.



## AND IF THE MOTORING PUBLIC DOES ITS PART . . .

- Be a responsible driver. Know the "rules of the road".
- Install a hands-free device for making calls. Don't text and drive.
- Don't drink and drive. The consequences can be devastating.
- Consider weather and road conditions before starting your trip.
- Speed kills.
- Be aware of school bus vehicles. If a school bus is within sight, chances are children will be nearby.
- School buses make frequent stops. Flashing amber lights alert you to the fact that the bus is about to stop.
- It is your responsibility - and the law - to stop 5 metres behind or in front of a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended.
- Currently, the maximum fine for passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing and the stop sign extended is \$655.65 and assessment of two demerits.
- Be smart. As hard as it is to believe, school bus drivers have reported vehicles passing the stopped school bus on its RIGHT side - the side where children enter and exit the bus.



## SALLY GETS SAFELY TO SCHOOL AND HOME AGAIN FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

### Some "technical talk" that also helps get Sally home safely . . .

- School buses weigh in excess of 10,000 pounds.
- While school buses are painted "national school bus yellow", hoods are painted flat black so sunlight doesn't reflect into the bus driver's eyes.
- For maximum visibility, the rear and sides of all school buses are outlined with reflective tape. Most Manitoba school buses have roof-mounted strobe lights.
- School buses are equipped with at least one emergency roof hatch.
- All school buses are equipped with first aid kits, fire extinguishers, fire axes (or crow bars), and emergency reflectors.
- School buses are equipped with seven mirrors that offer the bus driver a variety of views and reduce blind spots.
- School bus seats are high-backed, padded, and spaced in a way that provides maximum occupant protection in the event of a crash.
- Manitoba school buses are equipped with a front crossing arm.
- Manitoba school buses are fitted with laminated glass which lessens the possibility of injury from flying glass, or ejection from the vehicle.

