

HOW TO BE YOUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVER'S SAFETY HERO!



A checklist for parents and kids to help stay safe while on the school bus

School bus drivers play a very important role in our lives—they keep us safe on the way to school and home! We should be sure to thank them each day, but also keep in mind a few easy things to help them keep everyone on board safe. Zonar developed this printable list for parents and kids to check off before they get on the bus every morning and after school. By going through this list together each morning, families can help establish good habits and be their school bus driver's safety hero!

For Parents



Before getting on the bus:

- ☒ **Remind your children to be courteous** to their drivers and other children on the bus.
- ☒ **Plan ahead for unwanted behavior.** You can't control what your child will hear or see but you can work to equip and teach them how to ask someone to stop bad behavior.
- ☒ **Check notifications, email, texts, weather alerts, and local broadcast** to make sure you're up to date on any school-related news (closures, driver changes, etc.).
- ☒ **Notify your school if your child has a schedule update**—an appointment, vacation, or a sick day, or will be getting off a different stop so no one worries and officials can accommodate the change.
- ☒ **Make sure your children wait in a safe, well-lit location** at least six feet – or three giant steps – away from the curb. Remind them the bus stop is by a road and not a safe place to run or play.
- ☒ **Make sure your children know what their stops are.** Remind them to pay attention to their surroundings and your younger ones to count the number of stops the bus makes before they get to school or home.
- ☒ **Remember what clothing your children wore** for the day—bright or reflective clothing is helpful for visibility, especially if it gets dark early in your region.

Most importantly, ask your child how their bus ride was that day!

For Children



Before getting on the bus:

- ☒ **Make sure you have everything you need for school** or home (coats, umbrellas, permission slips, homework, books, phones/tablets, etc).
- ☒ **Remind your parents what time your bus comes** at the stop in the morning and afternoon—don't forget to tell them if there are any changes!
- ☒ **Keep an eye out for traffic near the bus stop.** Do not play in the road!
- ☒ **Wait to approach the bus until it stops** and the door opens.
- ☒ **Wait until the bus driver or guard tells you it is safe** before crossing the street.

While on the bus:

- ☒ **Be nice to the driver, your friends and other students** on the bus.
- ☒ **Always keep your head and arms in the bus.**
- ☒ **No yelling while on the bus**—even if you're really excited to see your friends!
- ☒ **No picking up dropped items** without notifying the driver.
- ☒ **Stay in your seat** until your ride is over.
- ☒ **Pay attention to the number of stops** you take before school and home so you get off at the right place.
- ☒ **Always make sure the bus is completely stopped** before you get off and look both ways if you need to cross the street.
- ☒ **Only get off at your stop**, not your friend's stop.

When you get off the bus, tell your parents about your bus ride that day—did anything funny or scary happen?