

OCTOBER 2021 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Each day 1.5 million children are transported on Pennsylvania roads. These children are transported approximately 400 million miles to school each year. Make school bus transportation safer for everyone by following these practices:

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood.
- Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state, as well as the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:

PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL BUS STOPPING LAWS

When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP**.

When you approach an intersection where a school bus is stopped with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you **MUST STOP** in all directions

You **MUST STOP** at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.

You **MUST WAIT** until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.

DO NOT MOVE until all the children have reached a place of safety.

You **MUST STOP** on roadways with painted lines. You **MUST STOP** at an intersection, whether it is or is not marked with a stop sign. All traffic **MUST stop**.

Drivers may proceed on a highway with clearly defined dividing sections or physical barriers providing separate roadways. This only applies when the school bus is on the opposite side of the road. Physical barriers include concrete median barriers, metal median barriers, guide rails, etc. Clearly indicated dividing sections include trees or shrubs, rocks or boulders, a stream, grass, etc.

When In Doubt, **STOP**.

THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUICATED (SAFE**)**