



For more information on school bus safety please visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/outreach/safesobr/15qp/web/sbsb.html](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/outreach/safesobr/15qp/web/sbsb.html)



The Division of Police is Internationally Accredited.

Henrico County Division of Police  
P. O. Box 90775  
Henrico, VA 23273-0775

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: (804) 501- 5000  
[www.henricopolice.org](http://www.henricopolice.org)

Colonel D. A. Middleton  
Chief of Police



Proud of our progress;  
Excited about our future.

The County of Henrico does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability.

Summer 2010/CP/CRD



*What motor vehicle operators and parents or guardians need to know to keep school children safe and to prevent a tragedy.*



Report all suspicious activity!  
Call the Henrico County  
Division of Police at

501-5000  
or  
911—Emergency only

Henrico County  
Division of Police

# School Bus Safety

## SCHOOL BUSES ARE THE SAFEST WAY TO TRANSPORT CHILDREN TO SCHOOL



School buses are nearly 8 times safer than passenger vehicles. But children must take care when boarding or leaving the bus. While an average of 7 school-age passengers are killed in school bus

crashes each year, 19 are killed getting on and off the bus.

Most of those killed are children, 5 to 7 years old. They are hit in the danger zone around the bus, either by a passing vehicle or by the school bus itself. It is illegal for a vehicle to pass a bus with its red light flashing.

## YOUNG CHILDREN ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE INJURED OR KILLED BECAUSE THEY ...

- hurry to get on or off the bus.
- act before they think and have little experience with traffic.
- assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross.
- don't always stay within the bus driver's sight or,
- drop something as they get off the bus and run into the path of the bus to pick it up.

## HELP YOUR CHILD TO GET ON AND OFF THE BUS SAFELY

### TEACH YOUR CHILD TO ...

- stay away from the danger zone when getting on the bus and to wait for the driver's signal to board the bus.
- board the bus one child at a time.
- look before stepping off the bus when getting off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road).



- move away from the bus immediately when getting off the bus.
- remember the "Ten foot" rule. Stay ten feet (5 giant steps) away from any side of the bus.
- take 5 "giant steps" out from the front of the bus before crossing the street or until the driver's face can be seen.
- Wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross the road.
- look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped and keep watching traffic when crossing.

## OTHER MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

- Supervise children to make sure they get to the bus stop on time, wait far away from the road, and avoid rough play.
- Teach your child to ask the driver for help if he/she drops something near the bus. If a child bends down to pick up something, the driver cannot see him/her and the child may be hit by the bus. Have your child use a backpack or book bag to keep loose items together.
- Make sure clothing and backpacks have no loose drawstrings or long straps, to get caught in the handrail or bus door.
- Encourage safe school bus loading and unloading.
- If you think a bus stop is in a dangerous place, talk with your school office or transportation director about changing the location.

