



School Bus Driver Training Program



Preventing Danger Zone Accidents Classroom Trainer's Guide



Making Kids Safer™

Training That Changes Drivers' Behaviors

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This Danger Zones training program is only one of 27 training programs from our comprehensive Driver Training Course.



27 Training Programs & Final Exam

Safety & Defense Driving

1. Safety Best Practices
2. LLLC Defensive Driving

The Bus

3. Meet the Bus
4. Pre & Post Trip Inspections
5. Mirror Adj & Ref Points
6. Check Your Brakes

Driving Situations

7. Intersections
8. Safe Backing
9. Railroad Crossings
10. Danger Zones
11. Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety
12. Adverse Driving Conditions
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About the Driver

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15. Preventing Driver Distractions
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The Children

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19. Student Management
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Additional Programs

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27. Operating Electric Buses

Final Exam

Danger Zones

Topics Covered:

- What are danger zones?
- Preventing Danger Zone accidents.

You will need:

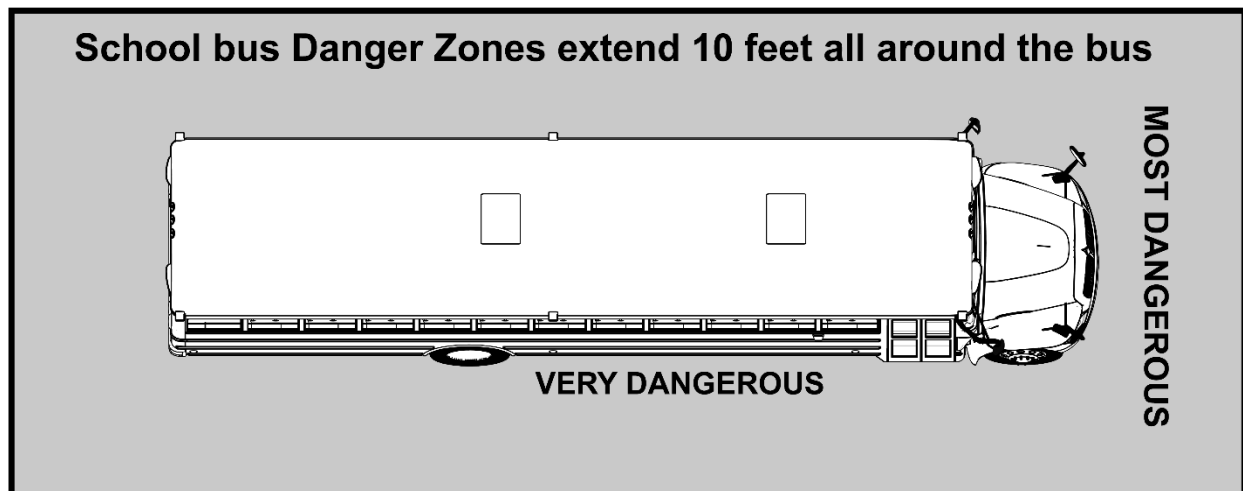
“Danger Zones” program which has 9 sections:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. DETAILS OF RECENT ACCIDENTS
3. UNDERSTANDING DANGER ZONES
4. SAFE PICK UP AND DROP OFF PROCEDURES
5. TEACHING THE STUDENTS
6. CROSSING THE STREET
7. LEARNING FROM PAST ACCIDENTS
8. REVIEW
9. FINAL QUIZ

The Danger Zones are the areas around the bus where students are most at risk from being injured or killed by their own bus or by a passing vehicle. Most states and provinces designate the Danger Zones as being the areas up to 10 feet around the bus.

However, New York designates the Danger Zones as being up to 15 feet, California designates 12 feet. All other states and provinces designate 10 feet.

Many students cannot identify what 10 feet is, so we describe this as five giant steps. This is easier to understand and put into practice.



Danger Zones

Prior to starting the video, explain this to the driver's:

Children are most at risk before they board the bus and after they leave it, when they may be in the danger zones around the bus. In the USA, over the past 10 years 55 children were killed in the danger zones by their own bus or by other vehicles passing the bus.

This program is to ensure your passengers are safe before they board and after they exit the bus.

One of the most important steps you can take is to clearly tell the students about safe practices around the danger zones at the start of the year and then reinforce these practices throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION

After this section has played, emphasize the point that younger children, below grade 3, are far more at risk. Three times as many younger children are killed in the danger zones than students in grade 3 and above.

These younger students may be carefree and do not know the dangers with the big bus. Pay close attention to keeping these younger children safe.

DETAILS OF RECENT ACCIDENTS

After this section, reinforce that by far the most dangerous practice is crossing the street. In the last ten years there were 55 student fatalities in the danger zones and 33 were while crossing the street – 60%.

In the last two years there were 8 student fatalities and 4 were while crossing the street - 50%.

The crossover accidents can be avoided by:

- (1) If at all possible, students should be picked up and dropped off on the side of the street where they live. If we can avoid crossovers, there cannot be a crossing accident. If you see any opportunity to avoid crossovers, bring this to the attention of your supervisor.
- (2) Make sure the students follow the correct crossing procedure. This includes stopping at the end of the bumper and checking for traffic.
- (3) Utilizing an extended stop arm as shown.



Danger Zones

UNDERSTANDING DANGER ZONES

After this section has played, explain that by far the greatest risk is to students who have to cross the street. If there is any way we can avoid crossovers, we should do so. If not, we need to pay extra diligence every time students have to cross the street.

For most states, the danger zones are recognized as being 10 feet from the bus, or five giant child-sized steps. However, California recognizes danger zones as being 12 feet away from the bus, (six giant steps) and New York recognizes danger zones as being 15 feet away from the bus (7 giant steps).

Students should be taught never to enter the danger zones, except when boarding and leaving the bus, as directed by the driver.

WHY CHILDREN ENTER DANGER ZONES

After this section has played,

Discuss these reasons with the group:

- Having to cross the street.
- Dropping something and trying to retrieve it.
- Taking a shortcut close to the front of the bus
- Trying to cut between parked buses.
- Running after the bus, hitting the side, (when late)
- Interacting with kids still on the bus
- Walking too close to the sides of the bus

Discuss the ways you can prevent children from entering the danger zones.

Also, discuss with the group that some students have been killed from running after the bus and falling under the rear wheels or being hit by another vehicle. What can they do to prevent students running after the bus?

SAFE STOPS

After this section, remind the drivers that if they feel any stop is unsafe, they should bring this to the attention of their supervisor. Never drop a child anywhere other than their approved stop. If there are any issues, contact dispatch.

RECOVERING FROM DISTRACTIONS

After this section, discuss that drivers may lose sight of a child if they are distracted, and that child may be in a danger zone. Counting the kids away will reduce this risk. If any child is unaccounted for, secure the bus and get out and look.

Danger Zones

SAFE PICK UP AND DROP OFF PROCEDURES

After this section go over these again, as follows:

Safe Pick-Up Procedures:

1. If you think a stop is in an unsafe place, tell your supervisor.
2. Activate the amber warning lights 300 feet before the stop. If your city or state requires a different distance, follow their requirements.
3. Approach the stop cautiously at a slow speed.
4. If possible, bring the bus to a stop at least 10 feet in advance of where the students are waiting, so you have a clear view of the students and what they are doing.
5. Put the transmission in park and set the parking brake.
6. Check that there are no passing vehicles and, if none, then open the door to activate the red lights.
7. Direct the students to board the bus.
8. Count how many students are waiting and then count them as they board the bus. If the number does not tally, find out where any missing students are, before you pull away.
9. Before pulling away, allow time for the students to take their seats.
10. If any students need to cross the street, the students should wait ten feet before the edge of the road and look at the driver for the driver to signal them to cross the street. The driver should ensure there are no passing vehicles and give a clear signal to cross the street. The students should check for themselves that the road is clear and then walk across the street, not run.
11. Never back the bus when children are nearby.

Safe Drop off Procedures:

1. Become familiar with the drop off points, know which students have to cross the street.
2. Activate the amber warning lights 300 feet before the stop. If your state requires a different distance, follow your state's policy.
3. Approach the stop cautiously at a slow speed.
4. Bring the bus to a full stop.
5. Put the transmission in park and set the parking brake.
6. Activate the red lights and check for any passing vehicles.
7. If all safe, direct the students to exit the bus.
8. If any students need to cross the street, make sure there are no passing vehicles and signal them to cross. The students should stop at the end of the bumper and check is all clear. They should then look back at the driver for the driver to signal them to finish crossing.
9. Count the kids as they exit the bus and count them again, before you pull away.
10. If there are too many students to count away, allow a little more time before pulling away. Toot your horn, move a few inches and toot again, before pulling away.
11. Never back the bus when children are nearby.

Danger Zones

Discuss with the trainees, the essential practice of COUNT THE KIDS AWAY

An important practice to ensure that students are not in the danger zones is to “Count the kids away”. As the students exit the bus, count them, so you know how many students have exited the bus. Then, before you pull away, look around and identify the same number of students who exited the bus. When you do this, you know no students are in the danger zones. If the number does not tally, do not move the bus until you identify any missing student who exited the bus.

TEACHING THE STUDENTS

When this section finishes, tell the drivers that at the start of each school year they should explain to the students, in a serious manner, that it is very dangerous around the bus, and they must give it the serious respect it deserves. The driver should then go over the eight safe practices as detailed on the next page.

In addition to instructing the students on the safe practices at the start of the school year, they are more likely to remember and follow the safe practices if these are reinforced by presenting the student safety practices two or three times a year. Student Safety Programs are available that can be presented by a teacher in a classroom setting, or by parents from home.

As the driver, you get to watch the students exit the bus every school day and if they must cross the street, you watch them do this, every day. If you see any unsafe practices, such as running across the street, staying close to the bus, running after the bus, take action every time to correct these unsafe behaviors.

Instructions to the Students

At the start of the school year, explain to the students the safe behaviors in the danger zones:

1. Say this to the students: “NEVER, repeat NEVER pick up anything you drop near the wheels, under the bus or in front of the bus. Tell me, your driver and I will instruct you what to do, or I will pick the object, paper, or money up for you”. This is very important.
2. Say this to the students: “NEVER run after the bus, this is very dangerous. NEVER bang on the side of the bus. If you are late, go home. Do not run after the bus. If the driver sees you running after the bus, they will stop and allow you to board, but the unsafe behavior will be reported to your supervisor, then to the school and the parents. In the past 10 years there were seven children killed while running after the bus.
3. Tell the students that there should be NO horseplay, pushing, shoving, or running when the bus is arriving, waiting or leaving.
4. Tell the students to avoid clothing with strings hanging from jackets and backpacks. Ask parents to remove them if necessary.

Danger Zones

5. Instruct children to walk five giant steps straight away from the bus when they exit, then they can turn in the direction they wish to go.
6. Make sure students understand that when they wait for the bus, they should stay at least five giant steps away from where they board the bus.
7. The students are NEVER to go behind the bus or cross between buses.
8. If none of the students you transport need to cross the street, you do not need to explain how to safely cross the street. If any students do need to cross the street, explain the following safe practices listed below to cross the street safely.

CROSSING THE STREET

After this section, reinforce the following:

In The Morning

1. Tell the students to wait on their side of the street, at least five giant steps away from the edge of the road.
2. There should be NO pushing, running or other horseplay.
3. After the bus has stopped, with its red lights flashing, the students should look at the driver for the signal to cross the street. Make sure the students know the signal you will use to direct them to cross, and they know the signal to stop and wait where they are.
4. Explain that if you toot your horn, they should return to the sidewalk as quickly as possible.
5. Once the driver signals them to cross, the students should walk to the edge of the road, look, left, right and left again and if safe walk across the street, do not run.

In The Afternoon

1. Students should only exit the bus when the driver signals them to do so.
2. Students should walk down the steps using the handrails with three-point contact.
3. Students should walk five giant steps away from the bus then turn the direction they wish to go.
4. If the students need to cross the street, they should walk five giant steps away from the bus, then turn left and walk to the end of the bumper on the front of the bus. Then, walk five giant steps further forward to the end of the crossing gate if there is one.
5. Look at the driver and wait for the signal to cross the street.
6. The students should now walk to the end of the bumper and stop. They should look left, right, and left again and if no traffic, look at the driver again for the signal to complete the crossing.
7. Students should walk, not run.

Danger Zones

LEARNING FROM PAST ACCIDENTS

Explain the following:

1. By far the most dangerous practice is crossing the street. In the last 10 years, there were 55, student fatalities and 33 of these (60%) were while crossing the street.
2. The second cause of danger zone tragedies is when a student gets close to the front of the bus. In the past 10 years there were 9 students killed at the front of the bus. Ideally, all school buses should have crossing gates to prevent these tragedies.
3. There were 7 fatalities from students running after the bus. If any student runs after the bus, you should stop and transport them. However, remind them how unsafe it is, and that you'll be reporting their behavior to your supervisor for action to be taken.
4. Draw cords should be removed from clothing or backpacks to prevent these getting caught in the doors and the student being potentially dragged.

REVIEW

After the review, remind the group of the following points:

1. It's important to check your Danger Zones, not just at bus stops but anytime you're stopped around pedestrians, children, or adults.
2. Count the kids away. Count how any students exit the bus and identify this number of students, before you pull away. If the number does not tally, do not pull away until you have identified all the students who exited the bus.
3. Remind the children of the safe steps to use when they get on and off the bus. Don't tolerate horseplay on the bus or at the stop.
4. Know where all the students are before you move the bus. Count each child and know where they are.
5. Tell the students to be at the stop 5 minutes before the bus is supposed to come.
6. If they are late, tell them they are NEVER to run after the bus, they should return home. They are NEVER to bang on the side of the bus, EVER.
7. If a child drops anything, they are to alert the driver for help or advice on how and when to retrieve the item.
8. Finally, crossing the street is the most dangerous practice. Clearly explain and follow the safe practices and make sure the students follow them.
9. If you see a student not following the safe practices, take action.

Danger Zones

FINAL QUIZ

Read each question and ask for volunteers to give answers. Encourage the participants to take notes and ask any questions they may have on Danger Zones.

Q1: Students should walk __ giant steps away from the bus after exiting.

- a) 5*
- b) 10
- c) 15

Q2: If you see a student running after the bus, what should you do?

- a) Stop but don't allow them to board.
- b) Don't stop, they should have been on time.
- c) Call dispatch to pick up the child.
- d) Stop, and allow them to board, but report their behavior to your supervisor.

Q3: _____ the kids as they leave the bus and again as they walk away from the bus.

- a) Greet
- b) **Count***
- c) Signal

Q4: Why should you seek to know which students have to cross the street?

- a) So this can be done quickly
- b) So they can get off the bus first.
- c) **So you can watch out for them each day and make sure they do cross safely.***

Q5: To prevent a student being dragged:

- a) Remove drawstrings from clothing.
- a) Remove drawstrings from back packs.
- b) **Both of the above.***

Q6: As you approach a pickup area, you should:

- a) **scan the entire area and take note of where the students are.***
- b) scan the entire area directly in front of and behind the bus.
- c) look straight ahead.

Q7: When you stop to pick up the students, the bus should be:

- a) **10 feet before where the students are waiting.***
- b) in line with the students.
- c) just past the students, so the door is in line with them.

Q8: You should tell the students that if they drop anything anywhere near the bus, they should:

- a) carefully pick it up.
- b) **tell the driver and ask for their help.***
- c) just abandon it.

Q9: What is the best way to avoid crossing the street accidents?

- a) **Avoid cross overs.***
- b) Count the kids away.
- c) Take extra care in watching for passing cars.

Q10: You see a student run across the street after you have dropped them, what should you do?

- a) Shout at them out of the window.
- b) **Talk to them the next day and direct them not to do this. If they do it again, tell your supervisor.***
- c) Give them a note next day

DISCLAIMER

The School Bus Safety Company (SBSC) has created this driver training program to help improve the quality of training provided to your drivers.

This course is fairly comprehensive but is not exhaustive in covering every facet or issue possible with respect to driving a school bus or the training process. It is the responsibility of the school district or contractor to ensure that they agree with the practices being taught and that all issues are correctly trained to deliver the safe service required, in your state or province.

Further, SBSC has no involvement or control over the delivery of the training with respect to time, thoroughness, understanding and the application of the training. All these facets are under the control of the school district or contractor, not SBSC. As such, SBSC will not be liable for any actions, accidents or occurrences resulting from using this training course.

The school district or contractor should review the program and be satisfied they agree with the practices being taught and the manner they are taught. The school district or contractor is responsible for the actions and results following the use of this training program.



Safety Management System

Mission

Remove or Reduce Risk

Vision

Do it Right the First Time, Every Time

Values

No Unsafe Behaviors

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Identification

Remove or Reduce Risk

Unsafe Behaviors

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| Leave room. Always stay back at least four seconds | 1 | Following too closely |
| Look ahead | 2 | Unprepared for what is coming |
| Look around | 3 | Not being prepared for what is around you |
| Communicate | 4 | Not communicating with other drivers or pedestrians |
| Stay within posted speed limits | 5 | Speeding |
| Count the kids away | 6 | Being unaware a student is still in the danger zones when you pull away |
| Avoid backing the bus or use a spotter or GOAL | 7 | Backing without a spotter or GOAL |
| Check for sleeping children | 8 | Leaving a sleeping child on a bus |
| Rock & roll for turns | 9 | Not rocking & rolling to see around blind spots |
| Use your reference points | 10 | Turning without using your reference points |
| Drop students only at approved stops | 11 | Dropping students at unauthorized stops |
| Adjust your mirrors | 12 | Not adjusting your mirrors to minimize blind spots |
| Do a thorough Pre & Post Trip and only operate a safe vehicle | 13 | Operating unsafe equipment |
| 311 0821384 If late, stay late | 14 | Rushing to make up time |
| Focus on the driving | 15 | Distractions – texting, dialling, or reading maps |
| Always stop completely at stop signs | 16 | Rolling through stop signs |
| Learn the students' names, smile and greet them | 17 | Not being able to identify students and having no communication with them |
| Courtesy is contagious | 18 | Developing a bad attitude |
| Slow down and pull back for rain, snow, ice or fog | 19 | Driving too fast for conditions |
| Get enough sleep, always be alert and awake | 20 | Driver fatigue |
| Always keep your balance, no rushing, use three point contact | 21 | Slips, trips & falls |
| Never be under the influence of drugs or alcohol | 22 | Use of drugs & alcohol |



Professionals apply these practices every day