

Danger Zones Quiz

Q1: Which is the most dangerous area around the bus:

- a. the driver's side
- b. the front
- c. the rear

Q2: If a student runs after the bus, you should:

- a. stop and allow them to board.
- b. stop and tell them this is unsafe and send them home or, transport them and make sure parents and principals are informed of this very unsafe behavior.
- c. continue driving and leave them.

Q3: If the students will not stop at the edge of the bumper and make sure it is safe themselves, you should:

- a. do nothing, that is their decision.
- b. advise your supervisor.
- c. the next time you see the students, explain the safe procedure. If they do not follow it, involve your supervisor.

Q4: If you think a stop is unsafe, what should you do:

- a. Change it
- b. It is what it is, accept it
- c. Tell your supervisor it is unsafe and why

Q5: Why is counting the students away, so important:

- a. If you know where they are, they cannot be in a danger zone
- b. You can make sure none are left on the bus
- c. You will know how many are still on the bus

Q6: Five students exit, but you can only see four walking away, what should you do:

- a. Assume they have run home.
- b. Don't move the bus until you see them. If you must, exit the bus and check under and around the bus.
- c. Ask the other students still on the bus to try to find them.

Q7 Why is it so important that you tell the students the rules up front and throughout the year:

- a. younger students are care free and we need to make them understand the danger zones.
- b. to convince them to stay out of the danger zones
- c. so they help in preventing danger zone accidents.
- d. all of the above.

Q8: What is a good way to make sure that students clearly understand the signals for waiting & crossing the street:

- a. Demonstrate them three times.
- b. Show them pictures.
- c. Demonstrate them and then have the students demonstrate them back to you.



Preventing Danger Zone Accidents Driver's Job Aid



The students are most at risk before they board the bus or after they leave it – when they are in the danger zones around the bus. This aid is to help you remember and follow all the safe practices to reduce the danger zone hazards and risks to make the kids safer.



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CORRECT CROSSING PROCEDURE

Over the past ten years, by far the most student fatalities have been caused when the student has been crossing the street and they have been hit by a passing vehicle.

Many factors led to these tragedies, but had the student followed the correct crossing procedure, most of these would have been prevented. By implication, had the school bus driver enforced the correct crossing procedure, most of these fatalities would have been avoided.

The correct crossing procedure is as follows:

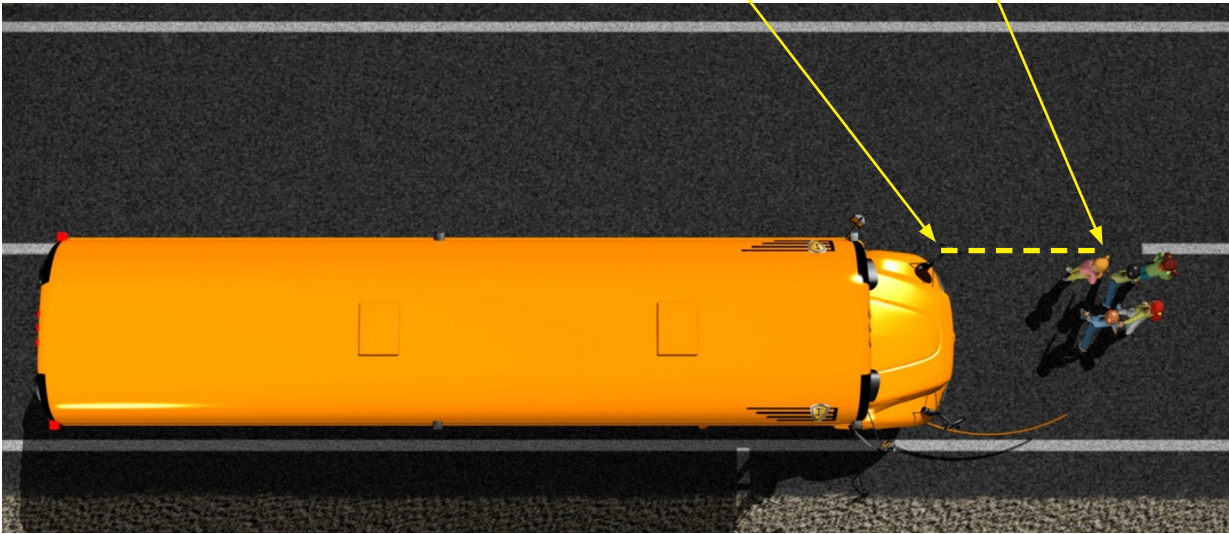
- 1. Students exit the bus and walk at least 10 feet away from the bus.
- 2. They then walk at least 10 feet forward of the bus, beyond the crossing gate if one is fitted.
- 3. Students stop on the curb and look to the driver.
- 4. The driver checks their left mirror, looks ahead and if safe, signals the students to cross.
- 5. The students walk to a line from the edge of the bus and stop. They then look left, right & left and finally at the driver again. The driver checks his left mirror again, looks ahead and if safe, gives the signal to complete the crossing.
- 6. Students complete the crossing while looking and listening and should not be looking at a cellphone.

As the driver, you get to watch the students cross every single time. Are they doing it correctly, every time? If not, you must enforce this correct safe crossing procedure.

This is really important. In the past ten years, 87 students were killed in the danger zones of school buses. 46 of these tragedies were from students crossing the street. Had these students followed the correct, safe crossing procedure, most would still be alive.

Students must stop in line with the bumper and make sure the road is clear, then look at the driver for the final signal to cross.

Students must stop here, in line with the bumper, look left, right, then left again and then at the driver for the signal to complete the crossing.



The leading practices to reduce the risks of students in the danger zones are:

- 1. At the start of the school year, explain to the students the required safe practices in the danger zones. These are detailed below. Make sure these are followed.
- 2. Ensure that the students follow the correct crossing procedures.
- 3. Count the kids away. Count how many students leave the bus and know where they all are before you pull away.
- 4. Do not allow any student to board who runs after the bus. Send them home. If this is not possible, have the school speak to the student about this unacceptable behavior.
- 5. Ask that all drawstrings or cords be removed.

Recommended instructions to the students at the start of the school year

Explain to the students that all areas close to the bus are danger zones and they are NEVER to go into these zones, except when loading and unloading. Instruct the students to wait at least ten feet away from the curb and not to approach the bus until it comes to a complete stop and you open the door and direct them to board. No student should ever be within 10 feet of the bus except when entering or exiting.

- 1. Crossing the Street
Explain the safe crossing procedure. As you do so, demonstrate to the students the “okay” signal when it is safe to cross (and enforce it’s use). Students should then walk to the place in line with the bumper and STOP. They should look themselves, left, right and left again and if clear, look at the driver again. The driver will glance in the mirror, look ahead and give the signal to complete the crossing. Only then should the students complete the crossing while they are still looking and listening.
Students are NOT to be looking at their phones at all, as they cross, they must be watching the road.
For students who need to cross the street in the morning to board the bus, they must wait on the other side of the road, 10 feet from the road, until the bus arrives and the driver signals them it is safe to cross.
- 2. Tell the students, NEVER, repeat NEVER pick up anything you drop near the wheels, under the bus or in front of the bus. Tell the driver and they will instruct you what to do, or the driver will pick the object, paper or money up for you. This is very important.
- 3. Tell 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, but you will NOT be allowed to board the bus – you will be sent home. There have been many fatalities caused by students running after the bus and falling under the wheels or being hit by a car as they run across the street. There is no point, you will not be allowed to board anyway. If we cannot send the student home (for example, no one is there), then principals and parents should be informed, and the student must be made aware that they are NEVER to do this again. It is too late to take action after a student loses their life.
- 4. Tell the students, there should be NO horseplay, pushing, shoving or running when the bus is arriving, waiting or leaving.
- 5. Tell the students to look for and remove strings hanging from jackets and backpacks. Ask parents to remove them.
- 6. Instruct children who cross the street to walk ten steps ahead of the bus, before turning to cross.
- 7. Instruct children to walk ten feet straight away from the bus when exiting, then they can turn in the direction they wish to go.
- 8. Never cross behind or between buses.