



Q&A: Bus Safety

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What steps have Plainfield Schools taken to improve security on school buses?

- Traveling to and from school via school bus is an extension of the school day, and students are expected to behave on the bus as they would in the classroom.
- All Plainfield school buses are equipped with video cameras that records activity within the bus. Our buses do not have external cameras.
- Bus drivers work with students to ensure behavior expectations are understood and enforced.
- In most cases, students sit by age group, although occasionally older students may sit near the front of the bus to help younger students.
- Some, but not all, buses have an adult aide in addition to the driver.
- Bus drivers frequently reward students for excellent behavior.
- When reviewing and updating bus routes each summer, the Transportation department works to eliminate as many instances as possible where children must cross the street to get on the bus.
 - While curb-side pick-up and drop-off is the goal, in some cases it would significantly extend the length of the bus route.
 - Sometimes parents do not want a route extended because it extends the time their child will be on the bus each day. In those cases, the parents, submit a letter to the Transportation Department stating that they understand their child will have to cross a street.
- In Plainfield, US 40 and Main Street are examples of a highway where cars going both directions are required to stop when school buses extend their STOP arm. However, many cars disregard the STOP arm when they are traveling in the opposite direction. While this is unsafe and wrong, all students have curb-side service along those roads, and should not be crossing the street.
- We see the greatest number of STOP-arm violations in neighborhoods and on town streets.

- Students are taught that when the bus reaches their stop, they may exit the bus, take about ten steps, then look to the driver for a signal before they move across the street. The students are then expected to look both ways before proceeding into the street.
- The most important steps to ensure student safety around school buses include
 - Parents and bus drivers continuously educating and reinforcing proper safety procedures with students, and
 - Motorists paying more attention, being aware of the laws surrounding school bus stops and proper practices with STOP-arms, and obeying those laws.
- To learn more about school bus safety and laws in Indiana, check out the Indiana Department of Transportation website at this link: <https://www.in.gov/indot/3657.htm>
- The Indiana Department of Transportation provides this illustration to help motorists better understand laws in Indiana.

