



MISBEHAVING STUDENTS = DISTRACTED DRIVERS

As every person who drives knows, you are faced with distractions every time you drive. This is even more true when driving a school bus with up to 64 students on board -- especially if students are misbehaving.

When a student misbehaves, the driver's attention is diverted from driving to the misbehaving student placing the driver at an increased risk of having an accident. Under ideal conditions, the average person takes about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a second to identify a road hazard (such as seeing a child dart out between two cars), $\frac{1}{4}$ of a second for the brain to process the situation and another $\frac{1}{4}$ of a second to make a decision on how to avoid the hazard. If a driver is traveling at 30 mph, that processing time translates to about 33 feet before the driver can even start to react to the situation. Once the driver identifies the hazard, he must react to it by applying the brakes. This takes the driver an additional $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second and another 33 feet. Finally, the vehicle itself takes about three seconds to fully engage the brakes, bringing the vehicle to a complete stop in approximately 38 feet. Thus the overall braking distance needed for an attentive driver on a dry road is roughly 104 feet. In addition, for each second the driver is distracted, an additional 33 feet is added to the stopping distance. So, if a driver is distracted with a three second task of correcting a student who is misbehaving at the same time a hazard presents itself, it would take the vehicle 203 feet to completely stop (at 30 mph).

NOTES: These statistics were obtained from a national report and are on the average car/pick-up truck only. For all larger vehicles such as a school buses, delivery trucks and tractor trailers, the stopping distance will be greatly increased.

School buses, by far, are the safest mode of transportation on the roads today. However, one student misbehaving on the bus can put everyone on that bus in danger. So, please have a discussion with your child(ren) and stress the importance of proper behavior on the bus.

To encourage good behavior on the bus, we are recognizing a Student of the Month for good behavior on each school bus.

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