



CROSSING PROCEDURES

School bus drivers need to follow and teach specific crossing procedures. They teach these to the students starting at day one from Pre K – 12th grades and expect everyone to follow them since they are designed to protect students. Failure to adhere to the procedures puts student lives in danger. The procedures are as follows:

When there are students who require crossing the street to get on the bus in the mornings, the students are to remain back away from the road approx. 15 feet. As the bus arrives, it will activate the amber “Jersey lights” and come to a stop. The red “Jersey lights” are then activated, and the STOP signs come out. The bus has just become a traffic control device, and all other vehicles are required to stop. The driver will check forward and behind to ensure all other vehicles have stopped. When the way is safe, the driver will give the hand signal (pointed index finger crossing the windshield from left to right). Then, and only then, should the children look both ways to ensure the driver hasn’t missed any moving vehicles and cross the street. They must stay far enough in front of the bus so the driver can see them the entire time and they can see the driver. Once on the bus, they are to be seated in the first available seat as soon as possible so the bus can continue on and not hold up traffic any longer than needed. When the bus stops at the next pick-up point that’s when the students are to get up and move back to their assigned seats. This is called rotation and it allows the bus to be more efficient on time spent at any given bus stop.

For the afternoon/PM runs, when the bus approaches the bus stop, the Amber “Jersey lights” are activated, and the bus comes to a stop. The red “Jersey lights” are then activated and the STOP signs come out. The bus has just become a traffic control device and all other vehicles are required to stop.

As the students for that stop are getting off the bus, the students for the next stop coming up are to get out of the seat (never before the bus comes to a stop) and move to the most forward available seats. The students getting off go to the bottom step of the bus and look both ways before stepping off the bus. This is to prevent them from stepping out in front of maybe a bicycle, Amish buggy or even a vehicle passing the stopped bus on the wrong side. Once the way is determined clear, the students step off the bus keeping as far off the edge of the road as possible and walks forward of the bus far enough so the driver can see them clearly (about 10-15 feet) and they can see the driver. The driver will check forward and behind to insure all other vehicles have stopped. The road crossing procedure is then the same as for boarding the bus. If the driver blows the horn, this indicates danger and means get back to where you just came from immediately.

If a student drops something, they should never just bend over to pick it up or chase it. If they do, they may get out of the driver’s sight and that’s when tragedy can happen. They need to get the driver’s attention and wait for his/her directions.

Students should never get off the bus and run to mom or dad and mom or dad should never coax their kids across the road causing the student to ignore the proper procedures. Too many young children have been struck by vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses. These procedures are designed to help prevent that from happening.