Prevent Dragging Hazards!

- Students have been injured or killed when clothing, accessories, or even parts of their body get caught in the handrail or door as they exit the bus.
- Closely observe all students exiting the bus to confirm that they are in a safe location prior to moving the bus.

Remember:

One of a school bus driver's responsibilities is to report any hazardous route or stop conditions to a supervisor.

(Rule 6A-3.0171(2)(e)3.e., FAC)

Annual Training Opportunities

from
Florida Department of Education and Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT):

Annual Service and Parts Managers Meeting

Annual Driver Trainers' Leadership Conference

FAPT ESE Pre-Conference

FAPT Annual Conference

Ongoing Training Opportunities

School Bus Driver Trainer Basic Curriculum Course
(Contact – Kay Kanupp, FDOE)

CDL Examiner Training Course
(Contact – Kay Kanupp, FDOE)

Students with Special Needs Regional Workshops
(Contact – Julie Wammack, FDOE)

(850) 245-9795
schtrans@fldoe.org

Let's all remember that student safety is our first priority!

Let's keep focused on our important job!

Florida Department of Education
John L. Winn, Commissioner
www.fldoe.org
2/05

School Bus Operators Safety Reminder

Keep School Buses the SAFEST vehicles on the ROAD!

PLEASE

FACT: *School buses are eight times safer per mile than cars.*

As a driver, if you catch your mind wandering and are not counting every one of your children before proceeding on your route, then STOP and REFOCUS!

PLEASE PAY ATTENTION!

Remember to follow safe loading and unloading procedures.

To perform a safe stop, school bus operators must:

- Instruct students in safe loading and unloading procedures (see your supervisor for guidance).
- Activate amber warning lights 200 feet before stopping.
- Stop a safe distance (at least 10 feet) from any students outside the bus.
- When stopped, activate red warning lights, stop arms, and bumper cross arm.
- Look for pedestrians, traffic, and other items before, during and after coming to a stop and make sure all traffic has stopped.
- Engage parking brake and place transmission in neutral.

- **Loading students:**
  - Raise hand toward students outside the bus (open palm) to indicate "stop."
  - Make eye contact and count students.
  - Check mirrors and look for moving traffic and hazards.
  - When safe, open door and signal students to board. When safe, signal students who must cross road by pointing to them (two fingers extended, thumb down) and then pointing to where you want them to go. *Avoid sweeping motion that may confuse motorists.*

  - In case of danger, use horn or PA to signal students to clear roadway.
  - When all students are on bus, close door, count students, and ensure they are seated.
  - Deactivate warning lights, and check all mirrors.
  - Check traffic and proceed on route.
- **Unloading students:**
  - Check right and left mirrors and look ahead to be sure all traffic has stopped.
  - Tell students when it is safe to stand up and proceed toward the door.
  - Open door and count children as they exit the bus.
  - Make sure students move at least 10 feet away from the side of the bus and remain in your view.
  - When safe, signal any students who must cross the road by pointing to them (two fingers extended, thumb down) and then pointing to where they should go. *Avoid sweeping motion that may confuse motorists.*
  - In case of danger, use horn or PA to signal students to clear roadway.
  - Count students again and ensure all are a safe distance from the bus.
  - Close door and check all mirrors carefully, especially right hand mirrors (for students who do not cross road) to ensure they are away from the bus.
  - Deactivate warning lights. Proceed when safe and all children are accounted for and are safely away from the bus.

FACT: *Three times more students are killed while getting on or off a school bus each year than are killed as passengers inside the school bus.*

Special Dangers of Loading and Unloading

Dropped or Forgotten Objects

- Always focus on students as they approach/leave the bus and watch for any who disappear from sight.
- Students may drop an object near the bus during loading or unloading. Stopping to pick up the object or returning to pick up the object may cause the student to disappear from the driver's sight at a very dangerous moment.
- Students should be told to leave any dropped object and move to a point of safety out of the danger zones and attempt to get the driver's attention to retrieve the object.

As a bus driver, if you are concerned with a bus stop location or hazardous condition along your route, it is your responsibility to advise your supervisor of the situation as soon as possible.