

Safety Tips and School Bus Laws for Families and Motorists

Here are safety tips and reminders about the Maryland School Bus Laws for families and motorists. Please share this information with your families as we promote National Bus Safety Week and educate the public about the importance of school bus safety.

Stop On Red—Knowing When to Stop for School Buses—Zero Deaths Maryland & Vision Zero

While riding a school bus is the safest mode of transportation for school children, let's get the facts straight on when it is – and isn't – OK to pass a school bus, when you should begin to slow down and how far away from the bus you need to stop.

Maryland School Bus Laws and Safety Tips

School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. Still, children are especially vulnerable as they get on and off the bus. In Maryland, bus safety laws are in place to help drivers safely navigate the roads where children might be crossing.

Stop For School Buses: What Are The Laws In Maryland?

Maryland State Police and the Maryland Center for School Safety remind motorists to stop for school buses.

- Pay attention when driving, especially in school zones and during times of day when school buses are typically on routes.
- Stop when a bus stops. It is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing.
- Prepare to stop when the school bus is flashing its yellow lights and be cautious of students beginning to move toward the bus during these times.
- Students of all ages are unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for the unexpected and maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

WHEN TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS

TWO LANE:
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

TWO-LANE with center turn lane:
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

MULTI - LANE:
Vehicles traveling in both directions **MUST STOP.**

DIVIDED HIGHWAY:
With dirt, grass, or barrier median - Vehicles behind bus **MUST STOP.**
Vehicles traveling in opposite direction **USE CAUTION.**

YELLOW FLASHING
slowdown,
prepare to stop

be the driver
who saves lives

RED FLASHING
stop in both directions