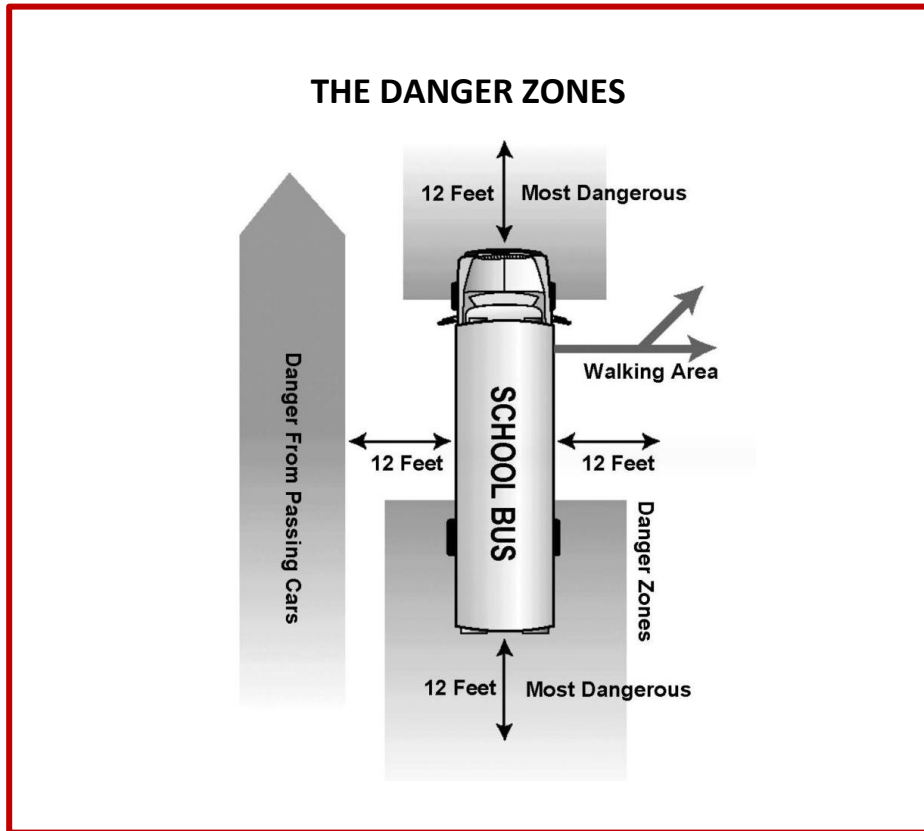


Safety Tips for Riding the School Bus

1. While waiting for the school bus, stand back at least 10 feet from the curb.
2. Stay out of the Danger Zone. The area around the bus is called the Danger Zone. Stay away from the rear and sides of the bus; always be in a safe place where the driver can see you.



3. Do not approach the bus until the driver opens the entrance door. Walk straight to the bus door. Do not walk down the side of the bus.
4. Never bend down near or under the bus; ask the driver for help if you drop something.
5. Never run after a bus. It is better to miss the bus than risk being hit by a car.
6. Never go back for anything you have left on the bus. Ask for help from your parent or school official to get your item returned.
7. Always follow the directions of the bus driver. By state law, students are under the authority of the driver while on the school bus and crossing the street.
8. If you must cross the street, always cross in front of the bus. The driver will make sure it is safe and direct you when to cross.

Guidelines for the Motoring Public

1. **Never pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing.** Follow the requirements of AB 1297:
 - a. Effective January 1, 1998, all school buses stopped to load or unload pupils must use flashing red lights.
 - b. All vehicles must stop when the red lights are flashing and may not pass the school bus until the red lights are turned off. This applies to both directions of travel unless there is a physical barrier, such as a median.
 - c. Vehicles must stop at least 25 feet away from a school bus with flashing red lights to ensure children have enough space to safely board or exit the bus.
 - d. All drivers passing a school bus while the red lights are flashing will be cited. Violating school bus safety laws can result in significant fines and points on your driving record. California takes these violations seriously to protect children.
2. **Stay alert.** Always be vigilant when driving near school buses and in school zones. Watch for children crossing the street and pay attention to bus signals. Be extra vigilant when the school bus is loading/unloading students; assume a child might run out at any moment.
3. **Obey speed limits.** Adhere to speed limits in school zones and around buses. Reduced speeds give you more time to react if a child suddenly appears.
4. **Be patient.** It is essential to be patient and avoid distractions when driving near school buses. Children can be unpredictable, and being attentive can prevent accidents. The safety of the children is our highest priority.