Parents as Partners in School Bus Safety
BUS FLEET IS THE 17TH* LARGEST IN MARYLAND
SCHOOL BUSES ARE THE SAFEST FORM OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

- 87* QACPS ROUTE VEHICLES- BUS FLEET
- 7,734* CHILDREN TRANSPORTED DAILY
- 10,931 MILES TRAVELED DAILY
- 146 DRIVERS

*FY 2015 MSDE End-of-Year Transportation Report
Safety Equipment Required on School Buses

Modern school buses are equipped with more safety features than most other large vehicles. The size of the school bus alone gives it an important advantage in all but the most catastrophic circumstances. Key federal safety requirements include:

*manufactured after April 1, 1977

**Special mirrors**
Additional mirrors that allow the driver to see all critical areas directly in front of and along both sides of the school bus.

**Warning lights**
Lights and reflective devices that indicate to motorists when the bus is loading and unloading passengers.

**Special passenger crash protection**
Well-padded, high-back, energy-absorbing seats, as well as special requirements for wheelchair restraint systems. Interiors are designed to reduce the chances of injury caused by sharp edges or body panels that may tear loose in a crash.

**Emergency exits**
Several emergency exits, based on the capacity of the school bus.

**Swing-out stop arms**
A stop arm that extends out to the left side of the bus to warn motorists when the bus is loading or unloading passengers.

**Fuel system protection**
Protected fuel tanks and fuel pump, fuel delivery system, emissions control lines and connections to protect against fuel spills in severe crashes.

**Better brakes**
Brake systems that enable the school bus to stop in a shorter distance than other large vehicles.

**Rollover protection**
Reduces the likelihood of a roof collapse and allows for operable emergency exits even after the roof is subject to extreme forces.
QACPS SCHOOL BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Commercial Driver’s License
- Passenger endorsement
- School bus specific endorsement
- Criminal background check
- DOT physical examination requirements annually
- Drug and alcohol pre-service and random testing
- MVA license history checked
QACPS  SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

• MSDE certified driving instructor provides pre-service classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction
• National Safety Council First Aid instruction & CPR
• Required six hours of yearly safety training
• Evaluation by Driving Instructor
  or Supervisor performed at a minimum of every 2 years
BUS STOP SAFETY

Leave these items at home:

• Balls
• Skateboards
• Balloons
• Toys
• Cell Phones
• PSP (Play Station® Portable) and Ipads

ONLY SCHOOL RELATED ITEMS MAY BE TRANSPORTED ON THE BUS
ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO WAIT SAFELY IN LINE ON THE SIDEWALK

BUS STOP SAFETY
Children must arrive at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the bus.
INTERACTION WITH THE BUS DRIVER

- LIMIT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BUS DRIVER AT THE BUS STOP

- PARENTS ARE NEVER AUTHORIZED TO BOARD THE BUS AT A BUS STOP

- WHEN YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CHILD’S BUS BEHAVIOR OR A PROBLEM ON THE BUS, CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL AT SCHOOL

- WHEN YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE BUS ROUTE, CONTACT THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AT 410-758-2403.
REMIND YOUR CHILDREN NOT TO DISTRACT THE DRIVER’S EYES FROM THE ROAD
UNRULY AND DISRUPTIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR COMPROMISES THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE ON THE BUS
RIDING THE BUS SAFELY

CHILDREN SHOULD BE SEATED FLAT AND BACK
CHILDREN SHOULD ALWAYS KEEP HANDS, FEET and OBJECTS TO THEMSELVES
Children should never extend any body part out the bus window
PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD TO USE A SOFT VOICE THAT LETS THE DRIVER HEAR ROAD SOUNDS
When asked by the bus driver, children should...

- Obey the driver
- Talk quietly
- Keep hands and feet to self
- Stay seated faced forward
- Keep the aisle clear
OUTSIDE OF THE BUS SAFETY

WHAT IS THE DANGER ZONE?

Walking Zone

Danger Zone

10 feet

10 feet
Half the fatalities at bus stops are a result of kids run over by their own school bus.
CHILDREN SHOULD NEVER GO BACK FOR ANYTHING THEY HAVE DROPPED OR LEFT ON THE BUS!

ALWAYS TELL A GROWN-UP
TRAIN YOUR CHILD TO WALK AROUND THE CROSSING ARM AND TO STAY OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE!
INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD TO ALWAYS CROSS IN VIEW OF THE DRIVER
INSTRUCT YOUR CHILD TO ALWAYS CROSS IN VIEW OF THE DRIVER
BUS REFERRAL GUIDELINES UTILIZED BY DRIVERS

• Verbal instructions to student

• Verbal warning to correct the behavior

• Seat change

• Driver speaks to student one-on-one

• Driver asks school administrator to board bus and speak to student
BUS REFERRAL GUIDELINES UTILIZED BY DRIVERS - AUTOMATIC REFERRALS

- FIGHTING
- WEAPONS
- THREATS OF VIOLENCE
  - obscene gestures
  - abusive and/or obscene language
  - threatening gestures

END the silence STOP the violence
• VERBAL ABUSE TO DRIVER or OTHER STUDENTS
  ➢ taunting
  ➢ teasing
  ➢ name calling

• PHYSICAL ABUSE TO DRIVER or OTHER STUDENTS
TRAIN YOUR CHILD TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES & TO
Parents as Partners

IN SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
Working together works!