

# Some facts about school bus transportation...



*The school bus has become an American icon that represents the care and concern we have for our future generations.*  
***But did you know?***

- Your child's bus is manufactured according to the strictest safety standards making it the safest vehicle on the road?
- School buses are required to have reinforced steel at the joints, around the gas tank and on the sides and roof to withstand side impacts and rollovers.
- Occupant seating standards that include high back, closely padded seats serve as a passive restraint system for children.
- The flashing lights, yellow color and size all signal to the motoring public that drivers should use caution because children are present.
- School bus drivers are carefully screened and trained. Strict criminal background checks as well as driving record checks are done on an on-going basis. Physical exams and drug and alcohol testing are conducted on all drivers throughout their employment.
- Minnesota laws require annual training and evaluations to ensure that all drivers fully understand the responsibility they have when they get behind the wheel of a yellow bus.
- Your child's school bus driver is supported by an entire team dedicated to safety. From the mechanic who ensures that the bus is mechanically sound, to the dispatcher who makes sure that routes are designed to minimize traffic hazards, to the office staff that stay in compliance with state and federal regulations.
- According to National Highway Traffic Safety data, your child is 50 times safer in a school bus than riding with friends or driving themselves to school, and 20 times safer than riding with a parent driver.
- Moreover, safety experts estimate that cutting school bus service in the US would result in 800 additional student deaths per year.
- The effects of the school bus reach into the classroom as well; recently data in Tennessee has shown that cutting school bus service increased student absenteeism from 5% to 18%.

*Thank you for entrusting your child to a valued member of the education team!*



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