

GWINNETT COUNTY SCHOOL BUS CAMERA SAFETY PROGRAM



Gwinnett County Public Schools is reminding drivers of the laws they must follow when they encounter a school bus while driving. These laws aim to help keep children safe when they are getting on and off the bus. GCPS also has placed cameras on buses to deter drivers from illegally passing school buses. When the school bus amber or red lights are flashing, the camera automatically detects vehicles passing the stopped bus, and records the violation. The violator will receive a citation in the mail. The district has approximately 300 buses with cameras this school year.

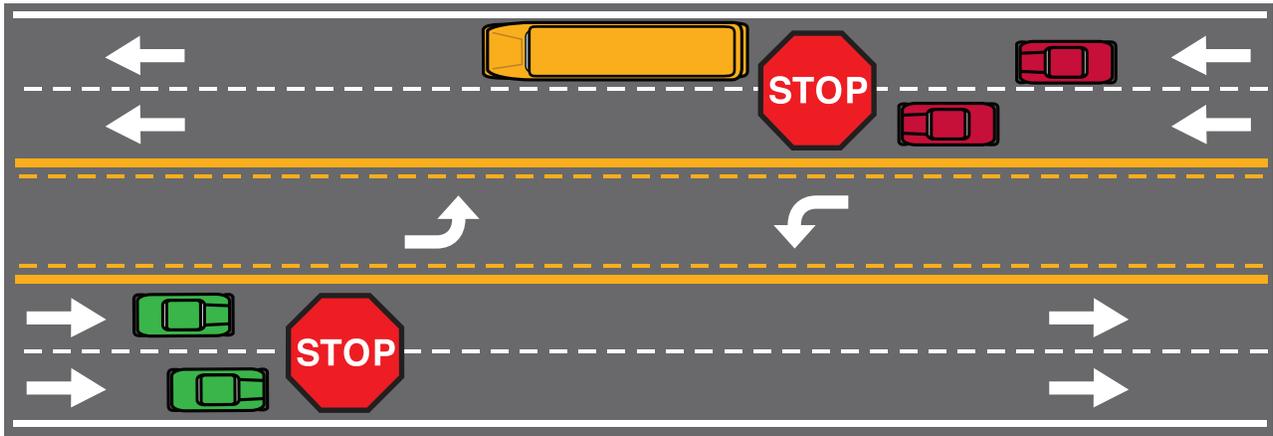
Safety is a priority when it comes to transporting students. We all play a role in keeping kids safe.

Here are examples of different roadways and how motorists should react to a stopped school bus, based on the law.

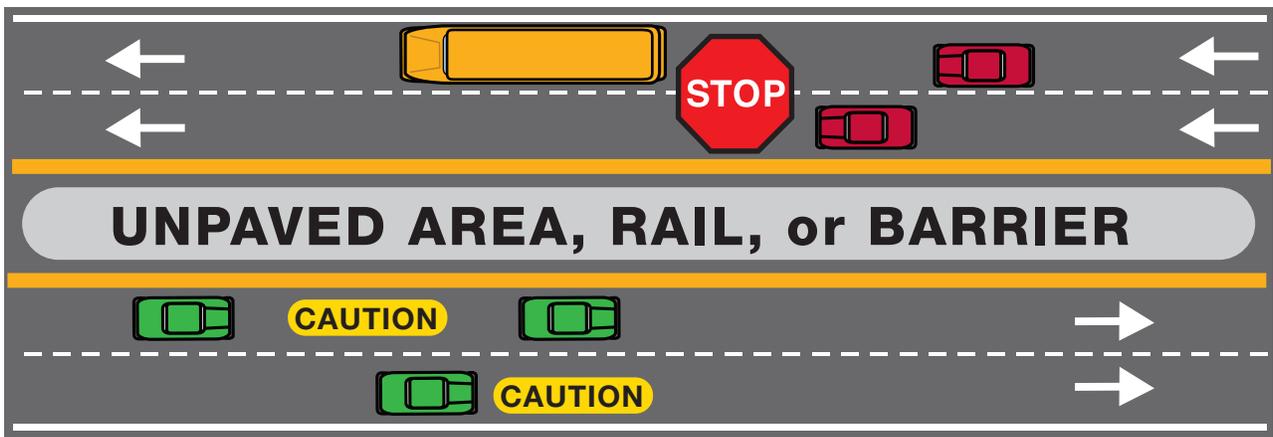
Two-lane roadway: Vehicles traveling in both directions **must stop.**



Multi-lane roadway: With paved turning lane— vehicles traveling in both directions **must stop.**



Divided roadway: With dirt, grass, or barrier median— Vehicles traveling behind the bus **must stop.** Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction **must use caution.**



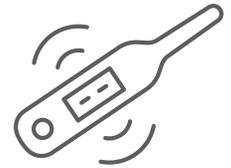
School Bus Safety Tips

- Drive your child around the area near the bus stop, ensuring that your student is familiar with the route and knows where to get off the bus. Point out landmarks that are easily recognized to help students know which stop is their stop. (Note: On afternoon routes, students are not let off a bus on cul-de-sac streets until the bus has completely turned around and is on its way out of the cul-de-sac.)
- Make sure students understand that they shouldn't get off the bus if they are uncertain about the stop. Children should tell the driver they aren't sure. The school bus will take the student back to the school and contact the student's family. This is particularly important for younger students (grades Pre-K–2) who are more likely to "follow the crowd" off the bus.
- Is your child a bus rider or a car rider, or does your child go to daycare? Routines are important. Following a routine from the first day at school helps the student and the driver become familiar with each other and the bus route.
- Plan, if possible, with other families in your neighborhood to have an adult present each morning and afternoon at the bus stop. When students recognize the adult "on duty" during the afternoon route, they will have a sense of reassurance that they have gotten to the correct stop.
- Parents, get to know your child's bus driver.
- Be visible at the bus stop by getting out of your car and standing with your child.
- Be at your bus stop five minutes early and only use your child's assigned stop.
- Encourage children to load and unload in an orderly line.
- Make sure hands are free and all your child's belongings are inside the bookbag.
- Teach your child to stay 12 feet from the street and never approach the bus unless it is completely stopped and the door is open.
- Teach your child never to step toward the bus before looking to be sure all the traffic has stopped in both directions.
- Never assume approaching cars will stop!
- Teach your child to look for traffic before exiting the bus when unloading. Your child should then proceed in a straight line, in full view of the bus driver, directly to a safe location 12 feet away from the bus and the street.
- If students must cross the street to load or unload a bus, teach them to always look for moving traffic. Cars may not stop! Your child should always keep eye contact with the bus driver and watch for the driver's signals.
- A child should never cross behind a bus or return to the bus after unloading.
- Children should never attempt to retrieve an item they dropped near the bus without first getting the driver's full attention and instructions on how to proceed. They should stand away from the bus at a safe distance, then they can get the driver's attention by waving their hands in the air.
- A blowing bus horn means DANGER. Teach your child to look and find a safe place to go immediately.

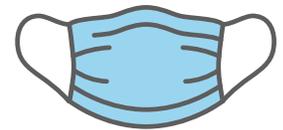
Learn more about Transportation in GCPS at
www.gcpsk12.org/GCPSTransportation.

Stay healthy on the bus

Before your child leaves for the bus stop, be sure to check for symptoms of illness, including fever. Students should stay home from school when they are sick.



Masks are strongly recommended.



All riders will sit in assigned seats on the school bus.



Note that buses will be disinfected after morning and afternoon routes, and windows will be open for ventilation, weather permitting.

Gwinnett County
Public Schools

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