

OPERATION SAFE STOP

An Educational Campaign by the New York Association for Pupil Transportation

**Prepared by NYAPT through the National Highway
Transportation Safety Administration under a grant from the
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee**



Operation Safe Stop

Education and Enforcement Program

A program funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a yellow school bus. The top portion shows the roof and rearview mirror area, while the bottom portion shows the front grille and headlights. A red rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the bus image, containing the title text.

What is Operation Safe Stop?

Operation Safe Stop is supported by the:

- 👉 New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee**
- 👉 New York State Education Department**
- 👉 New York Association for Pupil Transportation**
- 👉 New York School Bus Contractors Association**
- 👉 State, county & local law enforcement agencies**





Our Mission:

**To promote
School Bus Safety
through
Education & Enforcement,
Outreach & Partnerships.**

The Problem

- Every day an estimated **50,000** motorists will illegally pass stopped school buses with their red lights flashing.
- In the past two school years, passing motorists hit and killed **2** students outside the school bus.
- In the past two school years, passing motorists injured **69** children outside their school bus.
- Passing motorists are the **2nd** leading cause of student fatalities

The Law States:

- Drivers must  when school bus **red lights** are flashing.
- Even on divided, multilane highways or school grounds, drivers must  for school bus with **red lights** flashing.
- Penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus range from **\$250-\$1,000** in fines, points on your license; and/or possible imprisonment.



You should know:

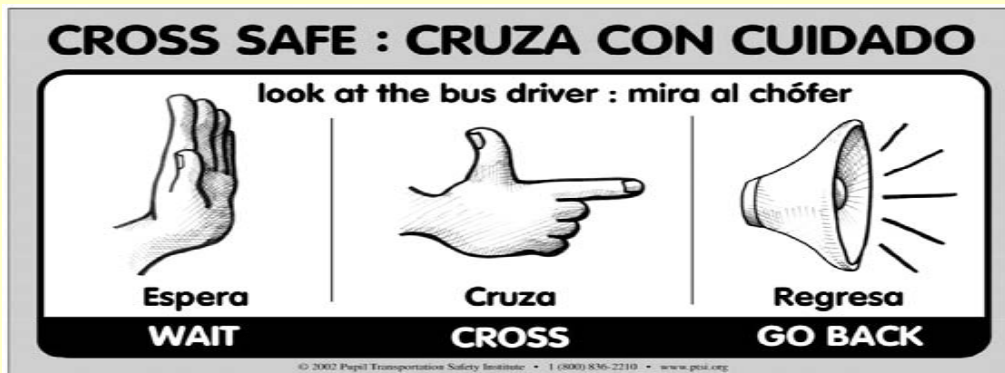
- School bus drivers are required by law to use the ***red school bus lights*** when loading or unloading passengers, and must keep the ***red lights*** lighted while students are being received or discharged.
- Whenever the ***red school bus lights*** are flashing there are school children around...that means:
- All vehicles including other school buses, police, fire and ambulance vehicles must stop for the flashing ***red school bus lights***.

Continued:

- The **yellow flashing lights** are activated to **warn** other motorists that the bus will be **stopping**. It is a **warning** that the bus is approaching a stop.
- If the bus doesn't move right away, there is a safety reason. Please be patient and do not move your vehicle until the **red lights** are no longer flashing.
- School bus drivers are prohibited from moving the bus if there are students closer than 15 feet to the school bus.

As a Parent, You Should Know

- School bus drivers are trained in proper procedures for loading and unloading your children. The State Education Dept. has adopted a **universal crossing signal** for the driver and your child to use. (see below)
- Your child will be instructed by the driver to establish eye contact and remember:
"I see you, you see me."



Parents continued:

- When all is clear the driver will use the “**universal crossing signal**” to tell you it is safe for the student to cross.
- If you will be meeting your child at the bus stop, wait on the side of the road till the door opens on, and *when the driver signals*, cross with your child.
- Teach your child to look **both** ways even though the driver has given the signal.
- If you/your child see an oncoming vehicle or the driver blows the horn, **return** to the protection of the bus.

A background image of a yellow school bus, showing the front and side panels. The bus is slightly out of focus, with a clear view of the front headlight and the side mirror area. The sky is a pale blue.

Parents continued:

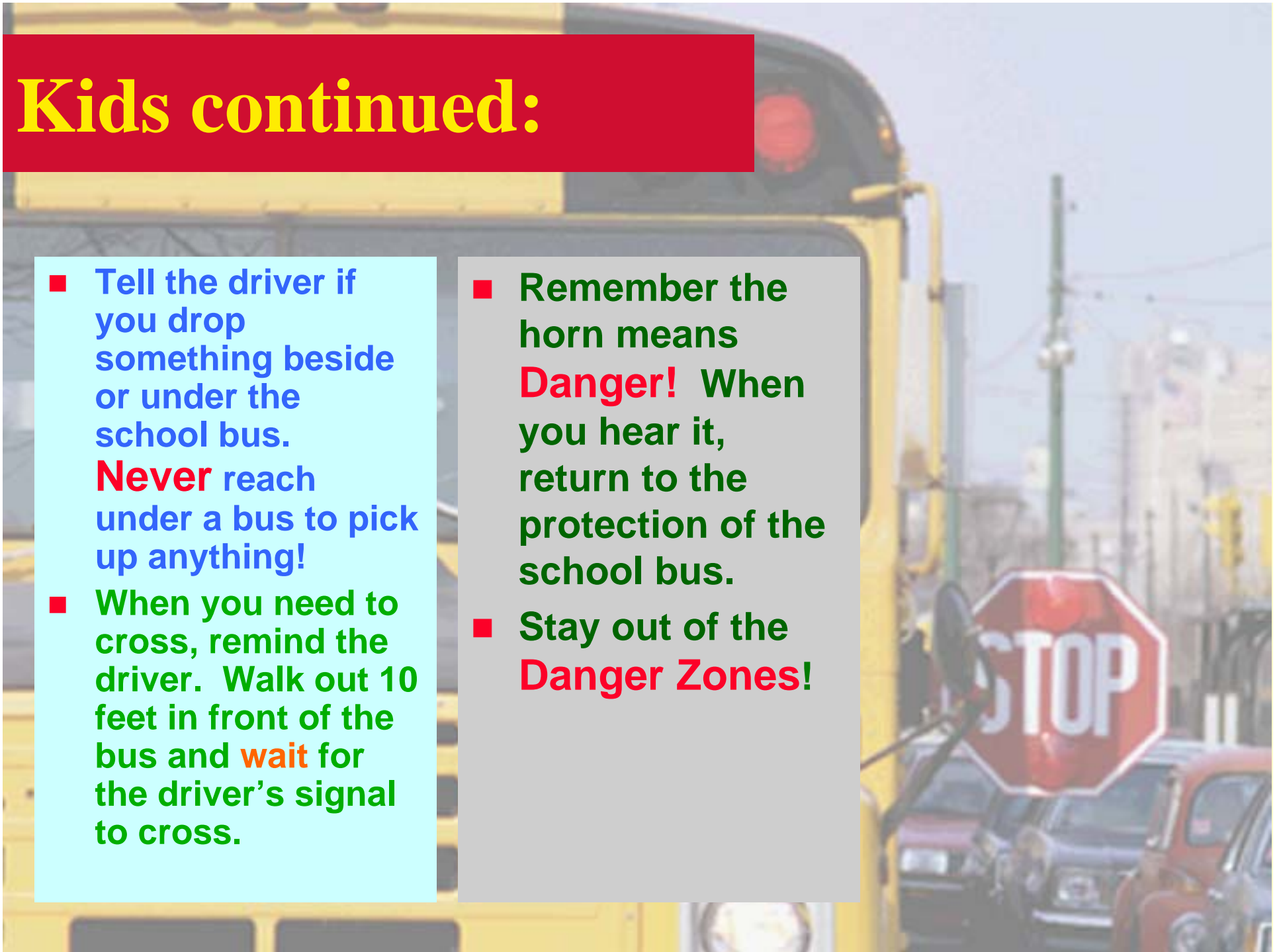
- **Encourage** the use of a backpack to eliminate the possibility of your child dropping objects and having to run back into the road and retrieve them.
- **Don't** let your child wear dangling objects from their clothes or backpacks. Such items could get caught on the bus and cause a *serious accident*.

What kids should know:

- Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes *early*.
- Walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the road to get to your bus stop.
- Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) back from the road.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the driver signals that it is “OK” to board the bus.
- Walk **in front** of the bus; never behind the bus.
- Be *sure* you can see the driver & the driver can see you. “I see you; You see me.”

Kids continued:

- Tell the driver if you drop something beside or under the school bus. **Never** reach under a bus to pick up anything!
- When you need to cross, remind the driver. Walk out 10 feet in front of the bus and **wait** for the driver's signal to cross.
- Remember the horn means **Danger!** When you hear it, return to the protection of the school bus.
- Stay out of the **Danger Zones!**



A background image of a yellow school bus, showing the front and side panels. The bus is slightly out of focus, with a clear view of the front headlight and side mirror area. A red rectangular box is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the text 'During the ride:'.

During the ride:

- **Always** sit fully in the seat and face forward.
- **Do Not** distract the driver.
- **Never** stand in a moving bus.
- **Obey** the driver.
- **Speak** in a low, classroom voice.
- **Never** stick anything out the windows of the school bus.

Operation Safe Stop

- Passing motorist fatalities are the 2nd leading cause of school bus fatalities in New York State.
- School bus safety is a team effort...and our school bus safety team needs the cooperation of the motoring public!
- Nothing is more precious than a child's life.
- The memory of hitting or killing a child may be one you carry with you for the rest of your life.

Operation Safe Stop

- Don't become a ***statistic yourself...and don't make a child become a statistic***
- Do not pass a stopped school bus with its ***red lights flashing.***
- Please be patient at school bus **stops.**

Operation Safe Stop

Thank you for learning about what makes a safe school bus stop.

We need everyone's help to ensure that every school bus stop is a
“Safe Stop.”



A program funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a yellow school bus stopped at a red light. A red octagonal stop sign is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the bus. The scene is set in an urban environment with buildings and utility poles in the background.

THANK YOU!

- ...on behalf of the school bus drivers who trust you to watch and stop for the Red Lights...
- ...and on Behalf of the 2.3 million children who board and leave our school buses 1,656,000,000 times in each school year...

**WE THANK YOU FOR
STOPPING!!**