



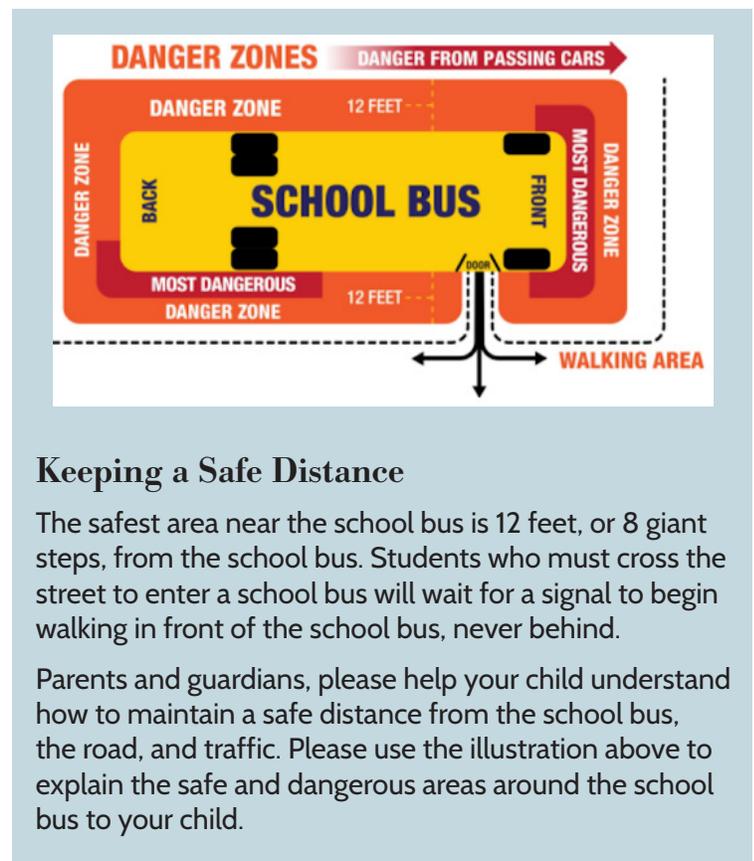
## Bloomfield Hills Schools School Bus Rider Safety

Bloomfield Hills Schools welcomes your family as a partner in ensuring all students have a safe, comfortable, and welcoming experience on the school bus!

Students learn about bus safety throughout the year, however, families are encouraged to discuss bus safety with children regularly. Together we can keep our Bloomfield students safe!

### Keeping Bus Riders Safe

- Bus riders should remain 12 feet (or 8 giant steps) away from the school bus at all times and keep a safe distance from the side of the road while waiting at the bus stop.
- If your child must cross in front of the school bus, they should stay at least 8 giant steps (12 feet) away from the bus and make sure that the bus driver sees them before they walk in the road towards the bus. Children should never walk behind the school bus.
- Riders are encouraged to use handrails when getting on and off the school bus and secure any loose or hanging objects, like straps or drawstrings.
- If a child drops something outside the school bus, teach them to never try to pick it up, and instead to tell the driver.
- Bus riders should use inside voices on the school bus allowing the bus driver to listen to other vehicles on the road.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to supervise young children at the bus stop preventing them from running into the street and ensuring they maintain a safe distance from the street.
- Follow the instructions of the bus driver.
- Remain seated at all times when the bus is in motion and keep arms, head, and body inside the bus windows. The aisle between the seats should remain clear.



### Keeping a Safe Distance

The safest area near the school bus is 12 feet, or 8 giant steps, from the school bus. Students who must cross the street to enter a school bus will wait for a signal to begin walking in front of the school bus, never behind.

Parents and guardians, please help your child understand how to maintain a safe distance from the school bus, the road, and traffic. Please use the illustration above to explain the safe and dangerous areas around the school bus to your child.

## Tips for School Bus Riders

- Bus riders should arrive at the designated bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled pickup time and keep a safe distance from the road.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the street. Always cross in front of the school bus; never behind.
- Board the bus one person at a time and sit in an assigned seat. The bus driver assigns seats using factors such as safety, physical ability, and student age.
- Objects too large to be held in a lap or placed under the seat, such as large band instruments, science projects, etc., are not allowed on the bus.
- All sports equipment and sharp objects (including pencils and pens) must be safely stored in the student's backpack.
- At the appropriate bus stop, bus riders should promptly exit the bus.
- Food and beverages are not allowed to be consumed in the school bus.

## Alternate Stop Request & Guest Riders

Students must be picked up and dropped off at their assigned bus stops only. Permission for exceptions may be granted on a space-available basis. The parent/guardian must request in writing to the school office to allow for their child to get on/off at a bus stop other than the child's assigned bus stop. The written request must include the name, address, and phone number of the adult who will be accepting responsibility for the child.

## Ok2Say: Confidential Reporting

Students should talk to their bus driver, parent, teacher or principal if they have any safety concerns on the school bus. Students and families may also elect to utilize Ok2Say, a student safety program which allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools. Visit [www.michigan.gov/ok2say](http://www.michigan.gov/ok2say) to learn more.

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## Bloomfield Hills Celebrates 30 Consecutive Years of Perfect Bus Inspections



The Michigan State Police granted BHS its 30th consecutive Certificate of Excellence for 100 percent accuracy in bus inspections in March 2022.

With the support of the School Board, Superintendent Patrick Watson's commitment to safety, and our exceptional transportation staff, BHS is dedicated to excellence. Safety is everyone's first responsibility. Inspecting the buses prior to every trip is a daily routine, and any issue that is not in good working order is written up for the mechanics to repair. The district is proud of this accomplishment and works to ensure that students have a safe and enjoyable transportation to and from school on our school buses.

