

Insight on Education

By Superintendent Nick Carter, Ed.D

"A school bus is the safest form of ground transportation. It is nearly eight times safer than a passenger vehicle."—*Kentucky Office of Highway Safety*

School buses are utilized daily throughout our nation to transport the vast majority of children to school. Each year in the United States, around 450,000 public school buses travel nearly 4.3 billion miles to transport around 23.5 million children to and from school and school-related activities. Children living in Breckinridge County are no different than the rest of the nation in regard to needing school bus transportation. The Breckinridge County School District provides bus transportation for around 1,885 children daily, covering 4,806 miles throughout the community. Breckinridge County is 6th largest in the state for land area and 57th for population. Therefore, the school district's transportation department is challenged with the task of ensuring all of our children living throughout the county have opportunities to safely travel to and from school each day.

Safety on our school buses remains a high priority in the school district. Student riders review bus safety rules and expectations periodically, and evacuation drills take place regularly. Research suggests that the most dangerous part for children riding the school bus is getting to and from the bus. In order to maximize safety, the Kentucky Department of Education suggests the following tips for parents/guardians:

- Arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive
- Children need to have all their items in their bookbag before they leave home, so they do not drop anything
- Wait at the bus-stop in a safe place, 10-12 feet away from the road
- Children need to keep electronic equipment (cell phones, iPods, etc...) packed away as they prepare to board the bus
- Children should never wear earbuds when walking to the bus stop or when getting on or off the bus
- Children should return home to get help or phone for assistance if they miss the bus
- Children should never chase after the bus

- Children should never walk to another bus stop
- Parents/guardians should never drive their children to another bus stop without permission.

Breckinridge County School District buses travel between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 A.M. and 2:30 and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Being mindful of these times with the understanding that extracurricular buses may also run at various times throughout the day and night each day of the week is vitally important to ensuring a safe riding experience for our children.

KRS 189.370 prohibits drivers from passing a stopped school bus. Your help in communicating the importance of school bus safety and observing our bus stop signs and lights will help in keeping our children safe. Breckinridge County is a wonderful community, and all of us who live and work here value our children. We in the school district are asking for everyone's help in continuing to ensure our children's safety on their way to and from school each day.