



Catoosa County Public Schools Transportation Department

"Providing professional, safe and reliable transportation services to the students within our county, every day and without exception!"

RE: BUS STOP SAFETY

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Transporting the students in our county to and from school, and keeping them safe during the process, is a huge responsibility and one that we take very seriously. Student safety during transportation requires bus drivers, monitors, bus technicians, students, parents, school administrators, teachers, and our community working together to ensure 100% of our students stay safe 100% of the time!

The most critical time for our students is while they are loading and unloading the bus. The National Safety Council estimates that 80 - 85% of all accidents in pupil transportation occur when students are being loaded and unloaded. The most dangerous areas are around the front tires, front door, and right rear tires where it is difficult to see students. Students are also at risk to passing motorists on both the left and right sides of a stopped school bus. The 12 foot area that surrounds a stopped school bus is known as the DANGER ZONE.

Across our nation, students are placed in the DANGER ZONE by being at undesignated bus stops. Incidents that can place students in the DANGER ZONE include:

- Students dropped off in the road in the lane of oncoming traffic;
- Students allowed to walk behind the bus and up the side of the bus without the driver being aware of the student;
- Students running after a bus;
- Students coming up to the driver side of the bus, at the front bumper, as the driver disengages the air brake before pulling away;
- Students arriving two or three houses down, in another subdivision, or at a friend or relative's house.

CCPS drivers are trained and instructed according to GADOE (Georgia Department of Education) Best Practices and Recommendations to load and unload assigned students at their respective, designated stops only. Any diversion from this practice must be approved by the transportation office or dispatch.

Along with this letter, your student should also have received two informational brochures on bus safety. One specifically addresses school bus stops and procedures, while the other addresses sharing the roadways with our school buses.

Thank you for all you do to assist us in the safe transportation of Catoosa County's greatest asset, our children!

Respectfully,

Jerene Jones
Transportation Manager

cc: Mike Rich, Director of Transportation