

## Multi-passenger vehicle safety

### Remember...

The safety of the children is the most important issue. Although your bus or van may be exempt by law from the car seat requirement, it is best to use transportation where your children can be properly secured.

If the vehicle has seat belts, children should always be properly secured in the appropriate child restraint for their age, height and weight.

If the vehicle does not have seat belts, children are not required to ride in a booster seat or wear a seat belt.

### Special information regarding Booster Seats:

If the vehicle has combination lap and shoulder belts, then children ages four through seven are required to ride in a booster seat with the lap and shoulder belts both used correctly. When a combination lap and shoulder seat belt is available, the shoulder belt should never be placed behind the child's back.

Booster seats were not designed to be used with lap belts only. A lap belt is a seat belt that *only* goes over the waist and is most commonly found in older vehicles. Therefore, the law does not require children to ride in a booster seat in vehicles equipped with lap belts only. Lap belts, however, are not the safest means to transport children, so you may want to consider another method of transportation.

If you have questions about safely transporting children, please contact a certified child passenger technician in your area. You can find your local contact at [www.saveMOlives.com](http://www.saveMOlives.com) or by calling 1-800-800-BELT.



For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Transportation's Highway Safety and Traffic Division at 800-800-BELT (2358) or go to [www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org).

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# School Bus & Multi-passenger Vehicle Safety



# School Bus Safety Tips for Everyone!

## Students

- Be at the bus stop five minutes early.
- Use sidewalks and crosswalks. If sidewalks are not available, walk on the left side of the street.
- Do not run to or from the bus stop.
- Check traffic carefully before crossing the street.
- Be alert for vehicles in driveways and parking lots.
- Do not move toward the bus until the driver has given you permission.



## Parents

- Read and discuss school bus riding policies with your children.
- Explain that the rules are written for the safety of everyone.
- Know the laws concerning stopping for school buses that are loading and unloading children.

**Students are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely when taking a school bus instead of traveling by car.**

## Drivers

- Strictly enforce safe crossing procedures with all students at every stop.
- Resist distractions while driving, especially during loading and unloading.
- Remain alert for known danger zones on the route as well as variables such as child's age, weather, running children and dropped items.
- Never back the bus unless absolutely necessary!
- Proper mirror adjustments are crucial. Check adjustments before every route or trip.
- Be familiar with the use of all safety equipment.
- Listen to the children.
- Always perform a thorough post-trip inspection. Be certain no students are left on your bus.