

# School bus safety: What you need to know as school starts

Kobussen Buses, Ltd. will be starting its 70<sup>th</sup> year in the school bus business and would like to offer the following safety tips.

The start of school and enforcement of speed limits within school zones will be happening soon.

In other words, you may encounter school buses on the highway at many different hours of the morning, afternoon or evening, and speed limits within school zones will be enforced. According to Wisconsin statutes, on meeting or overtaking a school bus that has stopped on the highway, a driver of a vehicle from either direction shall:

1. Stop the vehicle before reaching the school bus if it is displaying its octagonal red “stop” sign or if its flashing lights are in use
2. Not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the octagon sign and alternately flashing lights are no longer displayed
3. The driver of a vehicle on a highway with separate roadways need not stop on meeting or passing a school bus that is on a different roadway or on a controlled access highway and the bus is stopped in a loading zone that is part of or adjacent to the highway and where pedestrians are not permitted to cross.

Parents of children who ride buses to school should be aware:

1. If available, walk to bus stops on sidewalks, single file.
2. If sidewalks aren't an option, face traffic, and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can
3. At bus stops, arrive early, don't play or push, and stay back six feet from road
4. Enter the bus orderly, and once aboard, keep aisles clear, be courteous, stay seated
5. Avoid long drawstrings, loose clothing, or other items that can become caught in handrails or doors
6. Don't extend hands, elbows or heads through windows; don't throw or pass objects to someone outside the bus
7. Never chase a bus after it has pulled away from the stop

8. Respect the “danger zone” — a 10-foot wide area surrounding the bus on all sides; when leaving the bus, quickly walk far enough away so the driver can see you.

You can be assured that your School bus driver has had all the proper background checks and training. Kobussen trainers spend over 40 hrs training with each driver before allowing the driver to drive students.