

DES MOINES | The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa State Patrol have published a two-page flyer offering some tips to remember when it comes to school bus safety.

During National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 19-25, students and parents are reminded to remember school bus safety with the theme “At My Stop, You Stop!”

The following are some reminders for both parents and students.

#### THE RULES

- To know when to pass, and when not to pass, learn to read lights and lanes.
- Look out for the kids. They’re counting on drivers to know the rules of the road when you see a school bus.
- Never pass a stopped bus on the right side.

#### FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS

- Means the school bus is preparing to stop
- Warning: When following the bus, it’s illegal to pass from behind when the yellow lights are flashing. You could receive a \$250 ticket.
- When approaching the bus from the opposite direction, slow your vehicle down to 20 mph or less.
- Be prepared to stop from any direction.
- Under all circumstances, look out for kids.

#### FLASHING RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGN OUT

- Means kids are getting on or off the bus.
- Warning: It’s illegal to pass from any direction on roads with fewer than four lanes. You could receive a \$250 ticket.
- Stop your vehicle at least 15 feet from the bus.
- Remain stopped until flashing red lights end and the stop arm goes in.
- Under all circumstances, look out for kids.

#### RAILROAD CROSSINGS

- Means school buses must stop before crossing.
- If you are behind the bus on a two-lane road, you must stop, too.
- If you’re traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, proceed with caution.
- Warning: It’s illegal to pass any vehicle within 100-feet of a railroad crossing. You could receive a \$100 ticket.

#### DANGER ZONE

- Be sure your child is aware of the 10-15 foot area immediately around the school bus, known as “The Danger Zone.” It’s especially dangerous around the front of the bus and the rear wheels, and in the driver’s blind spots.

#### BUS STOP RULES FOR THE KIDS

- Stop and look both ways before crossing any street.
- Getting on or off the bus, do not cross the street until the bus driver signals it is okay to cross.
- Always cross in front of the bus far enough ahead to be seen by the driver.
- Never cross behind the bus or run behind the bus.
- Do not run, push or shove when waiting at the bus stop, and always arrive a few minutes early.
- Wait until the bus driver brings the bus to a complete stop before attempting to get on the bus.
- Never pick up anything dropped near the bus; tell the bus driver and follow their directions.
- Never crawl under a bus.