

School Bus Safety

You can work with your State Driver Licensing Agency to check your drivers for valid CDLs with proper endorsements and utilize FMCSA's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to identify drivers who are prohibited from operating buses due to impairment convictions. This year, National School Bus Safety Week is scheduled from October 21st to 25th.

According to FMCSA data, over 480,000 yellow school buses transport approximately 25 million students from home to school each school day. School buses remain one of the safest forms of school-age student transportation in our country; however, in FY 2023, the DOT recorded 15,222 bus crashes in the U.S. From 2013 to 2022, 111 people were killed in school transport vehicles—50 were drivers, and 61 were passengers. Proactive measures such as ensuring drivers are properly licensed and utilizing the FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse can help lower these incidents.

In addition to manning buses with safe operators, we're asking you to reinforce safety *around* the bus with drivers and passengers alike. The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off. From 2013 to 2022, there were 1.5 times more pedestrian deaths *around* the bus (169) than riders on the bus (111). The school bus loading and unloading area is commonly termed the "Danger Zone," which is any side of the bus where a bus driver or motorist may not see a bus rider and is in greater danger. Please educate your bus riders about safely getting on/off and walking around the bus before crossing the road.

Thank you for joining NHTSA and FMCSA to educate your bus drivers and riders about the importance of safe bus operation and passenger safety in/around the bus.