

Parents (continued)

- the one they are assigned. The driver isn't allowed to let a child off at another stop without written permission.
- Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus. Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by busses on the right.
- Warn children that if they drop something, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.

Riding on the bus safely:

- Remain seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.
- Never distract the driver.
- Never stand on a moving bus.
- Don't throw objects.
- Don't shout or distract the driver unnecessarily.
- Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
- Children should talk quietly, be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's instructions.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

Another school year is upon us, and safety while traveling to and from school must be remembered. The Rice Lake Area Schools and Rice Lake Police Department would like to provide students and parents with some back-to-school tips to stay safe.



Rice Lake Area School
District
700 Augusta Street
Rice Lake WI 54868
Phone: 234-9007

Rice Lake Bus Service,
Inc
307 W Evans Street
Rice Lake WI 54868
Phone: 234-2038

 **Rice Lake Area School District**
A Commitment to Excellence 



WINTER School Bus Safety Tips:



Walking to the Bus Stop:

- Allow extra time to get to your bus stop.
- Wear bright clothing so the bus can see you in the early morning and late evening.
- Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Dress properly. Winter clothing, hats, and boots will keep you warm.

Waiting at the Bus Stop:

- Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus. Don't throw snowballs at the bus or anyone else.
- Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street. You could slide under the wheel of the bus and get hurt.
- Don't push or shove around the bus. Someone could fall down on the ice and get hurt.
- Hands should be kept to yourself at all times while riding on the bus. Fighting and picking on others creates a dangerous bus ride.

Safety Rules for Motorists:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Slow down and prepare to stop your vehicles.

- Red flashing lights and extended stop arm indicates that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on or off. Stop your car and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving.
- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or riding their bikes to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods and especially in school zones, watch out for children who may be thinking about getting to school and may not be thinking about getting their safely.
- Slow down and watch for children playing or gathering near bus stops.
- Be alert and ready to stop. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Be aware of added risks due to rain, snow, and ice.



RLASD

Website: <http://www.ricelake.k12.wi.us>

If your student is walking to school:

Parents

- Choose the safest route and actually walk it with your children.
- Look for the route with the fewest crossings.

- Try to plan a route where a crossing guard is present at an intersection.



- Children under age 10 should walk with an adult or older child everyday as they do not have the necessary skills to judge the speed or distance of traffic.
- Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There are safety in number and groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Teach your child the proper way to cross the street – look left, look right, and to the left again for moving vehicles before crossing the street.
- Use reflective material on children's outerwear. Do not allow hoods to block a child's vision.
- Set an example for your child – practice safe pedestrian and street crossing habits.

Students

- Always utilize crosswalks at intersections, and try to use intersections that have a crossing guard.
- Stop at the curb, the edge of the road, or the corner before proceeding. Look left, then right, then left again for traffic in all directions. If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right, left again.
- Do not enter the street from between parked cars. Never dart out into the road.
- Make sure drivers see you by making eye contact with the driver of the vehicle before attempting to cross a street.
- Do not use skateboards, scooters, or other play vehicles when crossing the street.
- At intersections with traffic lights, watch for turning cars and obey all traffic signals. Wait until you see the WALK signal and green traffic light, then look for cars as you cross. If you see a DON'T WALK signal, don't cross the street.



to walk facing traffic so you can see what's coming.

If your student is riding the bus to school:

Getting on and off the bus safely:

Students

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.

- When the bus approaches, stand at least five giant steps away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's "ok" before stepping on the bus.

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the road to a point at least five giant steps ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you and you can see the bus driver when crossing the street. Stop at the edge of the bus and look left-right-left before crossing.



- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When getting off the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, book bags, and backpacks with straps don't get caught in the handrails or the door.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Respect the "Danger Zone" which surrounds all sides of the bus. This zone is ten feet wide on all sides of the bus. Always remain 10 steps away from the bus to be out of the "Danger Zone" and where the bus driver can see you.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up, because the bus driver might not be able to see you.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get in to the car with a stranger. Always go straight home and tell your parents if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.

Parents

- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.
- Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups. There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers. Practice good pedestrian behavior. Your children should walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, they should stay out of the street.
- If they must walk in the street, they should walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as they can.
- Tell your child to stop and look left, right and then left again if they must cross the street. They should do the same thing at driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.
- Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.
- Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Give your child a note or follow the school's procedures if you would like for the child to get off at a stop other than