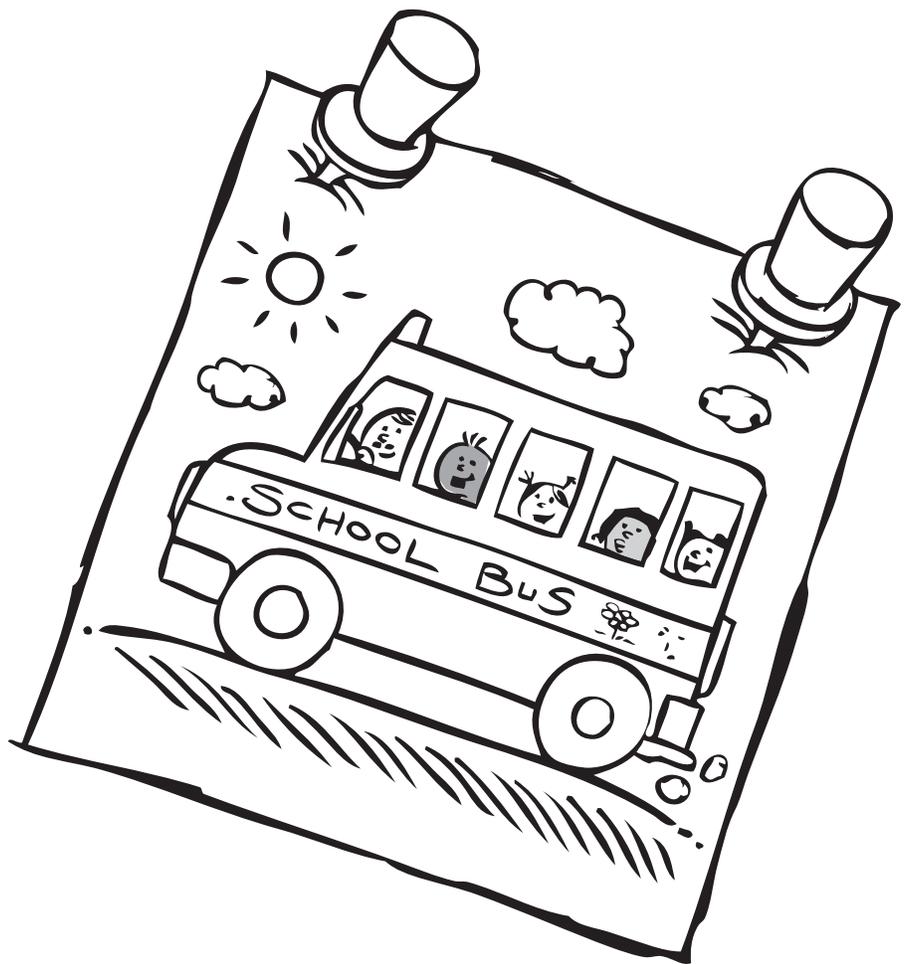


# TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

FOR

EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INTERVENTION (ECI)



**2019-2020**

Anne Arundel County Public Schools • Division of Transportation



# INTRODUCTION

## **WE WELCOME YOU TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES.**

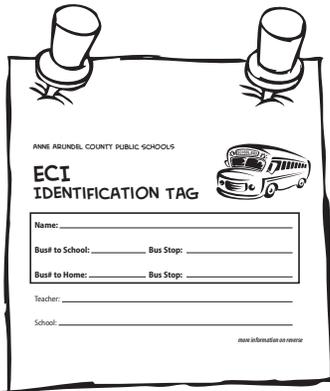
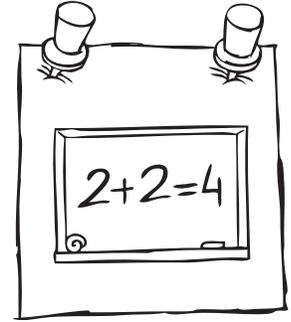
This outline is intended to provide you with the basics of our service. Opening issues, service eligibility, key safety issues, and emergency procedures are discussed.

Please take the necessary time to review the information. Your efforts will help us to provide safe and appropriate bus service for your child.



# OPENING SCHEDULES

Classes for all Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) will begin on **Friday, September 6, 2019.**



## IDENTIFICATION TAGS

At the start of the school year, each Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) student will receive a name tag. This name tag will identify the child's name, bus number, parent/guardian's name, bus stop, teacher's name, address, school name, and contact numbers. To ensure visibility of the ID tag by school staff and bus drivers, it is imperative that the tag be placed on the outer clothing each day (**not on your child's backpack**).

## PARENTS, STUDENTS & TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

### 1. Meeting the Bus & Supervision

Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program, will be delivered back to their bus stops in the afternoon. **A parent/guardian is required to meet the bus at the stop to receive the child, as drivers are not permitted to discharge an ECI student without the presence of a parent/guardian.** If a parent/guardian is not present when the bus arrives, your child could be taken back to school.

### 2. Student Supervision

Parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision and safety of their children receiving bus transportation from the time children leave home in the morning until the time of boarding the school bus. The same rule applies at the time of discharge from the bus on the way home from school. The school administrator and bus driver are responsible for supervision while children are on the school bus.

### 3. Be On Time

**Children should leave home early enough to arrive at the designated school bus stop ten (10) minutes before the scheduled arrival time of the school bus.** This requirement is not just to ensure that there is enough time; there are important safety considerations involved.

Being late causes panic, and catastrophic consequences can result. Further, remember that the school bus operator activates the alternating flashing warning lights at bus stops. Motorists stop for these lights. Tardy passengers cause motorists to become impatient, and some will ignore lights. For this reason, bus operators are instructed, generally, not to wait for persistently late passengers.



#### 4. Conduct on School Buses

Proper student behavior on the school bus translates to safe transportation. ***Any distractions to the driver may have significant student safety consequences.*** Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege may be temporarily denied or permanently revoked if misbehavior jeopardizes the safe operation of the school bus or the safety of students riding the bus. School suspension is a possible sanction for students misbehaving on the school bus.

#### 5. Property Damage

Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's behavior while on the school bus, and retain full responsibility for damage caused by their children to the property of others, including the school bus. When students walk to and from the bus stop or school, and while students wait at the school bus stop, they must show consideration and respect for the property of those citizens whose homes and places of business are located along the route.

#### 6. Unauthorized Entry Into a School Bus

The Maryland Education Article, Section 26-102, prohibits unauthorized entry into a school bus. Persons violating this rule are subject to a misdemeanor offense. Conviction may result in fines up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to six (6) months, or both.

#### 7. Detaining a School Bus

Issues concerning school bus transportation should be discussed with the school administrator at school, not with the bus driver at bus stops.

#### 8. Video Cameras and Audio Recording Devices

Many school buses are now equipped with video camera and audio recording devices. These tools provide a view of the passenger occupied area of the bus and record sounds and voices that ordinarily would be heard by the bus operator. The objective is to provide an important additional tool to assist the driver and school administrator in managing student conduct on school buses, an important safety consideration that benefits all.



#### 9. Walking Routes and Pedestrian Practices

Parents/guardians and children should develop a safe walking route to and from the school bus stop that is direct and uninterrupted.

#### 10. The Maryland School Bus Stop Law

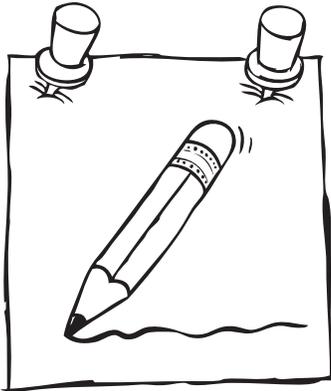
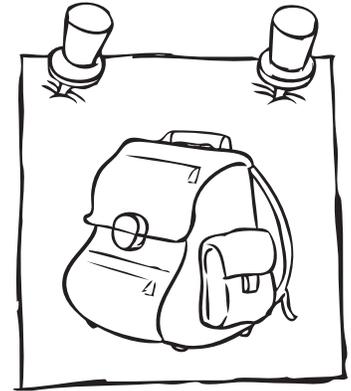
Maryland law requires motorists to bring vehicles to a full stop 20 feet from a school bus when the bus' red alternating flashing warning lights are in operation. This law applies to vehicles meeting or overtaking a school bus from either direction when the bus has stopped to receive or discharge passengers. The driver of the vehicle shall not allow the vehicle to move until the school bus resumes motion or the red alternating warning lights are no longer flashing. The driver of a vehicle coming upon a highway with separate roadways (dual lanes) need not stop upon meeting a school bus which is on the opposite roadway. Roads with common left turn lanes are not divided highways, and vehicles from both directions must stop.

## 11. The Danger Zone

Although school bus transportation services are among the safest form of transport service, there are still dangers. Nationally, the most common student transportation oriented fatality occurs as a result of injuries sustained outside of the bus, in an area called "the danger zone." In a typical school year across the nation, more students are lost to accidents occurring outside of the bus in the danger zone, than those resulting from injuries occurring within the bus. About half of the most serious injuries result from failure to stop for school bus warning lights. Younger children are the most common "danger zone" victims.

Children who must cross the street to board or depart

the school bus at the bus stop are to wait until the bus has stopped with warning lights flashing, and all traffic in both directions comes to a complete stop. Children must cross the street only in front of the bus. Teach your children that dropped papers must be left behind. Instruct your children to ask the bus driver to supervise the retrieval of dropped items. Parental/guardian supervision at the bus stop is most critical for younger students.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

### Proper Clothing

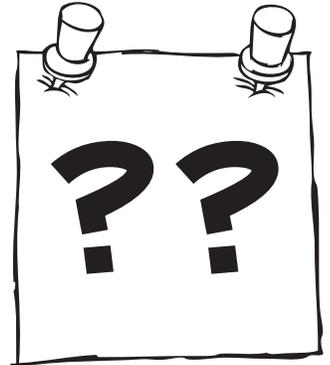
Encourage your child to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, and which will also allow other people to see them. If children cannot be seen by operators of vehicles, they are exposed to unnecessary danger. For example, white clothing is difficult to see in snow but makes one clearly visible at night. If weather is inclement, the child should be dressed for the occasion and leave a few minutes earlier than normal in order to reach the school bus stop or school safely and on time.

### Special Note about School Hour Adjustments

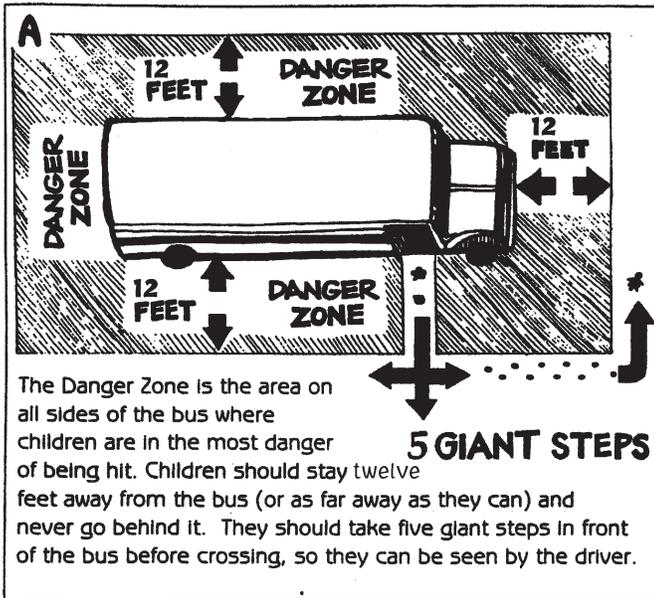
Parents/guardians of morning session Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) students need to know that whenever there is a scheduled, or unscheduled, two-hour early closing, **the morning session will close at the regular time, or 11:20 a.m., whichever is earlier.**

# QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

We want to transport your child safely to and from school. Your understanding and support of safety practices, procedures, and services will help us make your child's daily bus ride a safe one. Should you have any suggestions, questions, or comments about our services, please contact us by phone at 410-923-7890, or by mail at Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Transportation Division, 1681 Millersville Road, Millersville, MD 21108.



# School bus stops: a risky part of the ride



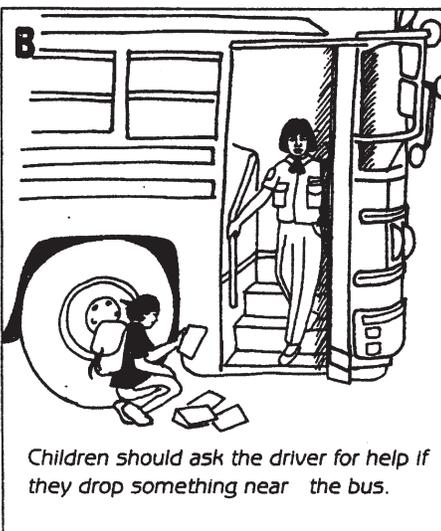
## Why students are in danger

Millions of children in the United States ride safely to and from school on school buses each day. Although school buses are the safest way to get them to school, an average of 33 school-age children die in school bus-related traffic crashes each year.

Most of those killed are pedestrians, five to seven years old. They are hit in the danger zone around the bus (A), either by a passing vehicle or by the school bus itself. It is illegal for a car to pass a bus with its red light flashing (see other side).

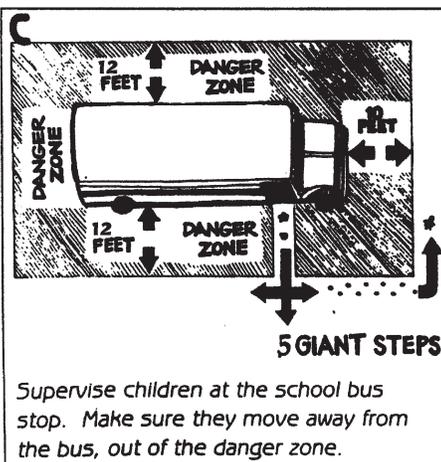
Young children are most likely to be hit because they:

- hurry to get on or off the bus,
- act before they think and have little experience with traffic,
- assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross,
- don't always stay within the bus driver's sight.



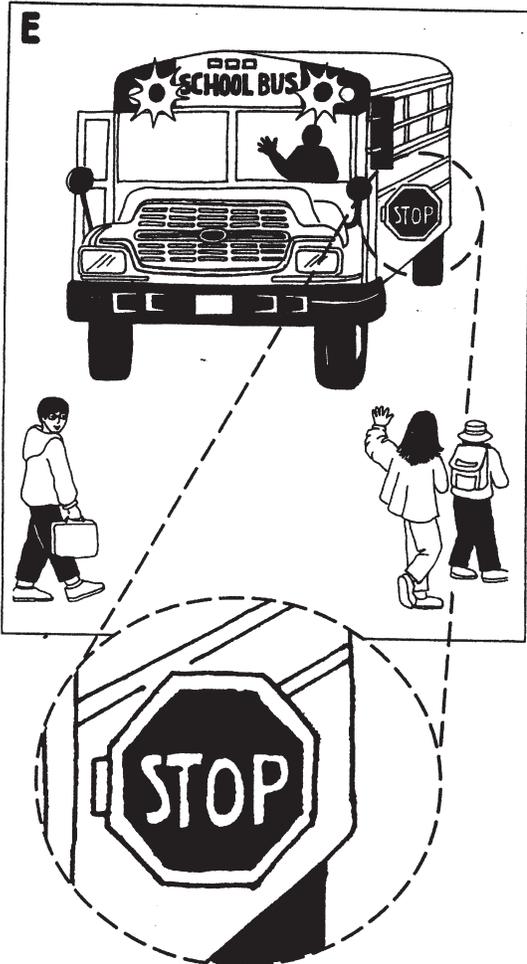
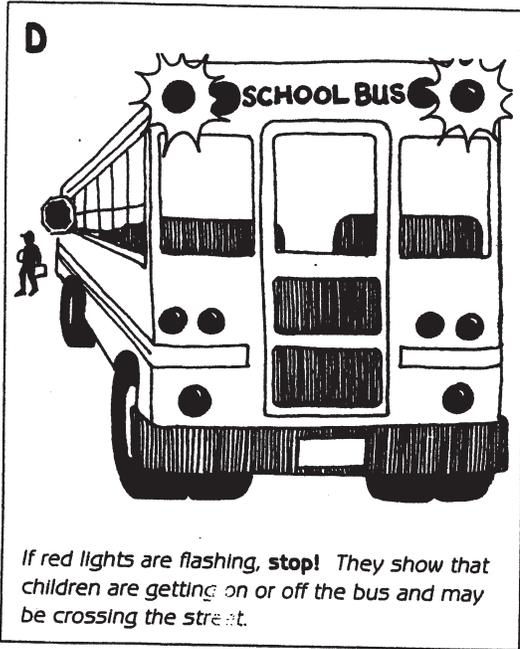
## Safety steps you can take

- Supervise children to make sure they get to the stop on time, wait far away from the road, and avoid rough play.
- Teach your child to ask the driver for help if he drops something near the bus (B). If a child stoops to pick up something, the driver cannot see him. Then he could be hit by the bus. A book bag or backpack helps keep loose items together.
- Make sure clothing has no loose drawstrings and backpack straps are short, so they don't get caught in the handrail or bus door.
- Encourage safe school bus loading and unloading (see below).
- If you think a bus stop is in a dangerous place, talk with your school office or transportation director about changing the location.



## Teach your child to get on and off the bus safely

1. When loading, stay away from the danger zone and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus in single file.
2. When unloading, look before stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). Move away from the bus (C).
3. Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen.
4. Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Continue to watch for traffic when crossing.



The extended stop signal arm alerts traffic when children get on or off the bus.

For more information, call the  
 NHSTA Auto Safety Hotline:  
 1-888-DASH-2-DOT  
 or visit the NHTSA website,  
[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov).









ANNE ARUNDEL  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Anne Arundel County Public Schools**  
**Division of Transportation**  
*George Arlotto, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

ELEVATING ALL STUDENTS... ELIMINATING ALL GAPS

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**[www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)**