

Reference Guide and Tes

Loading Zones:

(A Split Second Around Your School Bus)

Produced by Video Communications

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Introduction:

School bus loading zones are one of the busiest places for a school bus to be in. With buses arriving and leaving every morning and afternoon, it is obvious the dangers that can happen around a school bus at any given time. Examples of these dangers are shown in the video when we freeze time and give a 360° look around a school bus in a busy school bus loading zone.

In addition, the video goes over proper safety techniques and practices for school bus drivers. The video also explains how to incorporate the tools on a school bus to assist the driver when students are putting themselves at risk. The video points out the necessary steps that bus drivers should consider, when these types of dangerous situations arise.

Part 1

With the first stop, the video shows a couple of students frozen in time and walking directly in front of the school bus. So what does the bus driver use to identify them?

- a) The bus driver uses her cross view mirrors to identify the students walking in front of the school bus.
- b) Obviously, since the bus driver was able to identify the students successfully in front of her school bus, she would not proceed until all students, staff, vehicles, or any other types of hazards are completely clear around her bus.

Part 2

Next, the video shows a student standing in the middle of the busy loading zone looking for her school bus. What is the issue with this scenario?

- a) The video shows that the student standing in the parking lot is in a blind spot. The left flat mirror blocks the bus driver's field of vision from seeing the student.
- b) The bus driver then identifies the student by using the "rock and roll" method around the left flat mirror. She moves her body to widen her field of vision around the mirror and exposes what is behind it.
- c) So in other words, do not become lazy, or complacent. If your body is static and you do not put the effort into moving your body to see around the mirrors, you will not be able to identify the students around your bus.

Part 3

As the video moves along, notice the student leaning out of the window to get the attention of a passing friend. What can the bus driver use to identify her?

- a) The bus driver this time uses the numerous tools provided by the bus:

- The left flat mirror
- The left convex mirror
- The rearview mirror

b) Since numerous mirrors catch the student leaning out of the window, the bus driver acts immediately to let the student know not to do that because it is unsafe to do so.

c) If you see a student putting themselves in a dangerous situation be sure to address it immediately.

Part 4

Heading towards the rear of the bus, there is a student kneeling down to tie his shoe. Can the driver identify the student? And if not, what actions must the driver take?

- a) The bus driver definitely picks up an object in both her left flat and convex mirrors.
- b) Although she sees an object at the rear of her bus, she is uncertain of what it is.
- c) In this case, the driver secures and exits the school bus to check on what is behind her bus.
- d) Sure enough, the driver finds a student kneeling at the rear of the bus to tie his shoe, and wastes no time in letting the student know that it is very dangerous and to never stop behind a school bus.
- e) If you are not sure about identifying an object around your bus, take the time to get out and check on it. It is better to be safe then sorry.

Part 5

As the video wraps back around to the other side of the bus, notice the student outside of the bus handing a note to a friend on the bus. Although there is a quick exchange between the students, it is nevertheless a dangerous situation to be in, since the girl standing outside of the bus is standing in the most dangerous zone right next to the rear tires. How does the bus driver identify the students during this quick exchange?

- a) The driver identifies both students. The student receiving the note is picked up in both the right flat mirror and the rearview mirror on the bus.
- b) The student passing the note is picked up in the right convex mirror.
- c) Because the driver stayed focused and was paying attention to all of the happenings around her bus, she was able to identify the girls handing off the note.
- d) The girl outside of the bus, does not ride that bus. However, since she was putting

herself in a dangerous position around this particular bus, the driver makes sure to catch the student as she is passing to let her know that she was in the most dangerous zone and it should not happen again.

Summary

As we have demonstrated throughout the video, there are numerous unsafe actions that students do engage in around the school bus. That means it is up to the bus driver to utilize every safety tool provided by the bus. Take what you have learned from your training, and apply it every time you are about to enter or exit a school bus loading zone.

Distractions on or around the bus can cause you to skip a very important step when preparing to leave or enter a loading zone. Remember, a bus driver cannot be distracted. Full concentration is necessary in these extremely busy areas.

Don't forget to properly adjust, and rely on your mirrors. They are your second set of eyes around the school bus. Use the "rock and roll" method to get the best possible view around blind spots. Be sure to secure the bus and check on an object if you are unclear of what it is.

Stay focused. Do not become complacent. And remember, safety is the top priority when transporting students.

Test Questions

1) What type of mirror is primarily used to identify students in front of the bus?

- a. Convex
- b. Cross view
- c. Flat
- d. None of the above

2) There is no reason to worry about students in blind spots if they are at least 20 feet from the bus.

True or False

3) A good way to identify students or problem objects behind blind spots is to use the.....

- a. Mirrors on the bus
- b. Ask someone to assist you from outside of the bus
- c. Use the Rock and Roll method
- d. None of the above

4) If a student is leaning out of a window on the drivers side of the bus, what mirrors could identify them?

- a. Convex
- b. Flat
- c. Onboard
- d. All of the above

5) What actions should a bus driver take if they notice an object in a mirror but cannot identify it?

- a. Secure the bus, get out and check on the object
- b. Have a student check on the object
- c. Adjust your mirrors
- d. None of the above

Answer Key:

1. b

2. True

3. c

4. d

5. a