

Student Crossing Procedure

City of Brighton, Michigan – School Bus Safety

Purpose

To ensure all students—and any **parent escorts**—follow safe, consistent, Michigan-approved procedures when crossing the roadway to or from a school bus.

1. General Safety Rules

- Students must always follow the **bus driver's instructions**.
- Parents who escort children must follow the same rules as students.
- Students must stay in a group and avoid distractions.
- The bus driver is the **only crossing authority**.

2. Crossing *to Board* the Bus

- While waiting at your bus stop, stay in a group if there are several students. Stay back at least **10 feet from the edge of the roadway**. Do not walk towards the oncoming bus.
- Stay still and visible to the driver.
- Wait for the driver to display the **crossing paddle** and signal you to cross.
- If it is dark, the driver may turn on an interior light so students can see the paddle clearly.
- Walk directly across the road, staying **10 feet in front of the bus**.
- Do **not** stop, turn back, or pick up dropped items.

3. Crossing *After Exiting* the Bus

(When your stop is on the **driver's side** of the roadway)

Step 1 — Exit and Move Forward

- Exit the bus and walk **10 feet in front of the bus**, staying on the door side.
- Stand at the **front right corner** where the driver can see you clearly.

Step 2 — Wait for the Driver's Signal

- Face the driver and maintain eye contact.
- Wait for the driver to display the **crossing paddle** and signal you to begin crossing.

Step 3 — Cross to the Driver's Side and Pause

- Walk to the **driver's side of the bus**.
- **Pause** at the edge of the lane.
- Continue looking directly at the driver.

Step 4 — Continue Only When Signaled

- If the driver raises the **STOP** side of the paddle, stop immediately.
- When the driver signals again, the student should then look both ways, and continue crossing the roadway.

Step 5 — Complete the Crossing

- Walk straight across without stopping.
- Do not return to the bus or bend down for dropped items.

4. Critical “Never Do” Rules

- **Never cross behind the bus.**
- **Never retrieve dropped items.** Tell the driver instead.
- **Never stop to get household mail before crossing.**
- **Never assume traffic will stop.** Move only on the driver's signal.

5. Parent Escort Requirements

Parents must:

- Follow the same **10-foot rule** staying back at the stop from the roadway.
- Wait for the **driver's paddle signal**.
- Let the **driver** cross your child, do not tell them to “go” or “stop” this is the driver's responsibility.
- Keep eyes on the driver at all times.
- Avoid giving hand signals to traffic.