

# Driver Operation

School bus drivers shall:

1. Observe carefully all signs, signals, and rules of the road as provided by the Missouri Motor Vehicle Laws.
2. Follow these loading and unloading procedures:
  - If school bus is equipped with a master switch, make sure the master switch is in the “on” position.
  - Activate pre-warning amber flashing lights at least five hundred feet (500’) before the designated stop.
  - When stopping for a designated stop, apply brakes hard enough to light up the brake lights so that vehicles behind the school bus will know the bus is slowing down.
  - Approach waiting students with extreme care, paying attention to the surface on which the school bus will stop (dry, slippery, slopes, right, rough ground, etc.). Bring the school bus to a complete stop so that the closest part of the school bus is not less than six feet (6’) and not more than ten feet (10’) from the closest student.
  - Place the transmission in neutral and set the parking brake as needed.
  - Deactivate the pre-warning amber flashing lights and activate the red flashing warning lights and the stop arm when opening the service door after stopping.
  - Check traffic in front and rear of school bus before you give the students a hand signal that it is okay to cross the road. Drivers should train students not to approach the school bus until given a signal and to check traffic before crossing the roadway.
  - Require students who must cross the roadway after leaving the bus or before boarding the bus to cross a minimum of ten feet (10’) in front of the bus and only upon a signal given by the driver, monitor, or bus patrol when organized bus patrols are used.
3. If you need to pull over for any other reason
  - Pull as far to the right as practicable on the traveled portion of the roadway and at a location so that the school bus is visible for at least five hundred feet (500’) from each direction on a highway without shoulders with a speed limit greater than sixty miles per hour. Never stop the bus on any other highway unless there is at least three hundred feet (300’) of visibility in each direction. Check all mirrors to see that traffic is clear and it is safe to stop.