

Neighborhood Bus Stop Safety Information
Advice for Parents with Children who ride the School Bus
(An excerpt taken from BCSC Transportation information)

Regardless of whether you are a fan or foe of Daylight Savings Time (DST), it has dramatically increased the number of days that students board buses in darkness. Some parents have understandably expressed safety concerns regarding this situation, particularly when their children have to walk to a bus stop and wait for the bus in darkness. There are, however, some steps parents can take to make this trip safer.

If possible, see that an adult escorts younger children to the bus stop. Besides making the walk safer, an adult presence at a bus stop can also improve student behavior once everyone reaches the stop. Neighborhood parents can organize and take turns with these duties. If your work schedule does not allow such an arrangement, you can still take the time to walk with your children on the route that they will take to the bus stop. Discuss with them the proper way to reach the stop safely and how to behave once they reach the bus stop. Emphasize that they must remain off the roadway until the bus stops completely. Be aware that in some cases drivers may insist that the children move towards the bus only after the driver signals them that it is safe to do so. Finally, remember that most children, especially younger ones, will need to be instructed on safety procedures more than once before the message sinks in.

A national child abuse campaign of several years ago stated that children should "Be Seen, Not Hurt". That slogan can also be applied to students heading to the bus stop. Visibility is the name of the game. When shopping for book bags, jackets and athletic shoes, for example, try to purchase brands that contain reflective material. Reflective items can greatly increase your child's visibility to drivers in the early morning hours. Small flashlights or flashers, such as those used by joggers and cyclists, can also be used to alert drivers to the presence of pedestrians as they walk to a bus stop. Please note that these items must be turned off upon entering the bus.