



School Bus Industry Encourages Parents and Children to “Love the Bus”

Bellevue School District to Honor Local School Bus Drivers on February 14th

The Love the Bus program, founded in 2007 and coordinated by the American School Bus Council (ASBC), is celebrated on Valentine’s Day and throughout February in school districts across the country as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for the hundreds of thousands of school bus drivers who safely transport more than 26 million school children to and from school each day. It is also an opportunity for parents and children to learn more about the safety and environmental benefits of school bus transportation.

School bus drivers are a vital link to the education system in Bellevue. Without them, thousands of children in our area would have no other way to get to school each day. Love the Bus is an opportunity for us to thank the drivers who not only safely take our children to school each day, but also serve as role models and friends to children across the region.

To help celebrate Love the Bus, parents, teachers and children are encouraged to visit the program's Web site, www.LoveTheBus.com, to share stories about their favorite bus drivers, and make interactive valentines to email or print and give to their bus driver on Valentine’s Day, February 14. Educators also may log on to, www.LoveTheBus.com to download an educator’s toolkit, which provides details on incorporating Love The Bus into their lesson plans and offers best practices for communicating about pupil transportation.

Throughout February, the American School Bus Council and its members will hold a series of local events across the United States to educate parents and children about school bus safety. To learn more about the benefits of school bus safety, log on to, www.americanschoolbuscouncil.com.



Fact Sheet: School Bus Safety

Promoting the importance of school bus safety to parents, educators and children is a top priority of the American School Bus Council (ASBC). As the unified voice of the school bus industry, the ASBC offers the following safety information for parents, school administrators and children.

- The National Academy of Sciences, the U.S. Department of Transportation and other authorities agree that school buses are the safest form of transportation for getting children to and from school.
- Some 480,000 school buses carry 26 million children — more than half of America’s schoolchildren — each day, rarely with any serious accident.
- Safety features including the color and size of school buses, height, reinforced sides, flashing red lights, cross view mirrors, and crossing and stop sign arms ensure children are protected and secure on and off the bus.
- School bus drivers are highly trained professionals who have your child’s safety in mind. They receive specialized training in student behavior management, loading and unloading, security and emergency medical procedures.
- Drivers participate in pre-employment and random drug/alcohol testing, as well as frequent driving record checks, and submit to background checks and periodic medical exams to keep their Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with a School Bus Endorsement.
- The school bus industry operates by a set of safety, security, health and driver qualification guidelines that meet, and in some cases exceed, federal and state laws, and ensure that school buses are the safest mode of transportation for our nation’s schoolchildren.

Safety tips for students:

- Be alert to traffic. Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- Make eye contact with the bus driver, and wait for his/her signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- Before leaving the sidewalk, look for the flashing red lights.
- Never go near or under the bus to retrieve something you’ve dropped.

Safety tips for parents:

- Have your child ride the school bus to and from school instead of driving or riding with teenage passengers.
- Review the safety tips with your child regularly.
- Get to know the parents of other riders. You will learn about the other children who are riding along with your child.
- Team up with other parents to get involved and monitor bus stops and bus routes. Voice concerns immediately to your school district.
- Attend “back to school” nights and tour your child’s school bus.
- Get to know your school’s transportation coordinator and your child’s bus driver. He or she is a trained professional who sees your child every day.
- Keep phone numbers handy in case the bus is delayed or in the event of an emergency.

About the American School Bus Council

The American School Bus Council is a coalition of the school transportation industry -- including public and private transportation providers, school bus manufacturers and state officials responsible for pupil transportation. Council members are committed to providing safe, effective, efficient and healthy transportation for the more than 26 million schoolchildren who ride more than 480,000 school buses each day.

The Council's members include [NAPT](#) (National Association for Pupil Transportation), [NASDPTS](#) (National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services), [NSTA](#) (National School Transportation Association), [Blue Bird Corp.](#) of Fort Valley, Ga., [IC Corporation](#) of Warrenville, Ill., and [Thomas Built Buses](#) of High Point, N.C.

The American School Bus Council was formed in 2006 to educate parents, school officials and lawmakers about the essential role the yellow school bus plays in the safety, health, security and readiness of America's schoolchildren. Council members advocate for increased school transportation funding and advances industry standards on safety, security, environment, energy and access to education that are above and beyond state and federal law.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org.