



Winter Weather Safety Tips For Students and Parents



During winter months, the DPS transportation department works diligently to make safety our first concern and priority! School bus staff will be dispatched to get a head start on routes to eliminate students waiting on buses longer. We continuously work to have buses run on time, however, the following are some guidelines for parents in preparation for winter climates:

- **Dress for winter!** Students who walk to or wait at school bus stops should dress appropriately for cold, icy weather. Proper outerwear includes warm coats, gloves, hats and waterproof footwear.
- **Safety First!** Passengers should wait for the bus to stop completely before approaching the bus to get on, as well as before standing up to get off. Always use caution when stepping on or off the bus and wait for the driver's signal to cross in front of the bus when loading and unloading.
- **Stay alert!** Stop, look and listen is important for school children. Hoodies, headphones and portable electronic devices can distract students from paying attention to surrounding traffic.
- **Remember the Danger Zone.** This is the area extending 10 feet in all directions from the school bus. Loading and unloading is the most dangerous time when riding the bus. Staying out of the Danger Zone will help ensure the driver is able to see you and make loading and unloading safer.
- **Make the School Bus Your First Resource.** On mornings when the weather is bad, but school is in session, please let your children ride the bus.
- **Delays can happen.** In the PM as temperatures drop, roads may become icy & delay students' arrival times.
- **Plan ahead.** Students should never run after the bus. Plan ahead and allow sufficient time to get to the bus stop. As the weather gets colder, many families try wait inside until the bus gets. Please remember, however, when we wait on your student to run to the stop from inside, the bus falls behind on the route and it forces all of the other students on that route to have to wait in the cold.
- **Make arrangements.** Consider child care options in the event that school is closed for the full day. Likewise, consider arrangements if school dismisses early, such as:
 - Talk with your child's daycare provider regarding their severe weather policy.
 - Talking with a neighbor about checking in on your child
 - Make plans to have an adult in the home after dismissal
 - Ensure your child has a key to get in the house
- **Communicate with your school.** If you plan to pick your child up from school, make sure the school is notified in advance.
 - Note: Normal school procedures must be followed in picking up children from school.

Visit www.transportation.dpsk12.org or contact 720.423.4600/transportation@dpsk12.org.