



## Winter School Bus Safety Tips

Now that the winter weather is upon us, here are some seasonal safety tips to convey to students riding the bus.

- Allow extra time to get to your bus stop.
- Wear bright clothing so the bus can see you in the early morning and late evening.
- Stand away from where the bus stops - Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus or throw snowballs at the bus or anyone else.
- Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street - You could slide under the wheel of the bus and get hurt.
- Hands should be kept to yourself at all times while riding the bus. This is especially important during the winter months when the bus driver may be dealing with dangerous road conditions.

## Low-Cost and No-Cost Safety Strategies

School Budgets are tight, but there are still many things school leaders can do to keep schools safe.

- **The five-minute safety rule.** Take five minutes at every faculty meeting to discuss one topic from your school's safety or crisis plan
- **Diversify drills.** Conduct lockdown drills during nontraditional times such as lunch periods, student arrival and just prior to dismissal. Block exits (unannounced) during fire drills to teach students and staff to think on their feet. Lock down one section of your school while evacuating another area during the same drill.
- **Engage students.** Draw students into school safety plans through student-leader group discussions, poster contest and increasing awareness of drills. Train students not to open exterior doors for strangers during the school day.
- **Reach out to nontraditional partners.** Work with your county emergency management agency (EMA) to update crisis plans, participate in drills with first-responders, and collaborate on joint applications for security grants.
- **Hold mini-tabletop exercises.** Build abbreviated tabletop scenarios into faculty meeting and district wide principal meetings several times during each school year.
- **Conduct safety roundtables.** Add an agenda item to district principal meetings for sharing successful safety and crisis-preparedness practices in district schools

Trump, Kenneth S. "Keeping Schools Safe During Tight Budget Times." *District Administration, News, Articles and Community for K12 School District Management*. Sept. 2010

## National Health Observances

February 4, 2011

### National Wear Red Day

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute  
Health Information Center  
Attention: The Heart Truth  
P.O. Box 30105  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0105  
(301) 592-8573  
(240) 629-3255 TTY  
[www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth)

March 2011

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### National Nutrition Month®

American Dietetic Association  
120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2000  
Chicago, IL 60606-6995  
[nnm@eatright.org](mailto:nnm@eatright.org)  
[www.eatright.org/nnm](http://www.eatright.org/nnm)  
Materials available

## Emergency Preparedness

All schools are required to maintain written plans for how to respond to emergencies. Here are some steps that can help translate what is written into an emergency response that is effective and coordinated.

- Annually review and update school emergency procedures.
- Maintain accurate and updated data, such as contact information and floor plans. Provide this information to emergency responders, such as local law enforcement and local fire departments.
- Implement clearly defined procedures for the evacuation and lockdown of the building and schools should practice the procedures with all staff and students.
- Organize and train a school crisis team in each school. Schedule regular meetings for this team to keep members in tune with school safety and involve local public safety officials.



## Shovel Out For Fire Safety

Maintenance and grounds staff should be reminded to keep **all** exits clear of ice and snow to provide adequate means for escape during emergencies. Any doors designated as exits should be kept clear at **all** times while buildings are occupied. A continuous path from the exit to a parking lot, street, or sidewalk should be maintained as well.

Make sure that staff members pay special attention to fire lanes, fire hydrants, and sprinkler connections too. Ensuring that all of these areas are clear of snow and ice will enhance life safety and property protection for school districts.

Student and Staff should pay attention to icy sidewalks conditions and take their time getting to their destinations. Walking, not running, will provide the safest avenue for all persons concerned.

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