

# WHY IT TAKES SO LONG AT BUS STOPS



## SAFETY PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW

**THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN, AS THEY ARE TRANSPORTED  
TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS,  
IS OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY.**

**At bus stops state law requires drivers to follow these procedures:**

- ◆ Check mirrors for traffic conditions and apply brakes well in advance to warn traffic from the rear.
- ◆ Actuate warning lights 300 feet prior to stop.
- ◆ Stop bus at designated stop.
- ◆ Set parking brake.
- ◆ Place the gear shift lever into neutral gear for both manual and automatic transmissions to prevent the bus from lunging forward.
- ◆ Open service door to actuate the warning lights and place hand over horn to warn students of potential hazards.
- ◆ Give students directions to go to their *Designated Place of Safety* and stay there until the bus leaves or signal students to board the bus from their *Designated Place of Safety*.
- ◆ Shift the gear lever into the starting gear, only after counting and confirming the students are in their *Designated Place of Safety or safely in their seat*.
- ◆ Look to identify students and potential hazards in the danger zone, counting and checking the mirrors, before closing the door and canceling the warning lights.
- ◆ Close the door when all areas are clear. Door must be closed before the bus moves.
- ◆ Release the parking brake after closing the door.
- ◆ Recheck traffic in the right and left side mirrors prior to pulling away.

*Modification of these procedures may be necessary for preschool, kindergarten, and special needs students.*

