**School Bus and Teen Driver Safety / Anti-Bullying**

**Week 4: October 21st – October 26th**

# **Day 1**

# **School Bus Safety**

Do you know how to help make school bus transportation safer for everyone?

Keep these important tips in mind the next time you or someone you know are on the road:

* When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
* When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
* Slow down! Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood.
* Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
* Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
* Learn and obey the school bus laws, as well as the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:
  + **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
  + **Red flashing lights** **and extended stop arms** indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

**Day 2**

Want to learn more about School Bus Safety, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety>.

**Day 3**

# **Teen Driver Safety**

This week is a great opportunity for parents to start – and hopefully, continue – having conversations with their teens about the importance of driving safely. Whether teens are driving a car, truck, or SUV, the rules stay the same.

The greatest dangers for teen drivers are alcohol consumption, inconsistent or no seat belt use, distracted and drowsy driving, speeding, and driving with passengers in the vehicle.

Parents can be the biggest influencers on teens’ choices behind the wheel if they take the time to talk with their teens about some of the biggest driving risks, including:

* + **Alcohol and Drugs:** Remind your teen that driving under the influence of any impairing substance - including illicit, prescription drugs, or over-the-counter medication - could have deadly consequences.
  + **Seat Belts:** Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for teens to stay safe in a vehicle. Yet too many teens aren’t buckling up. In fact, there were 569 passengers killed in passenger vehicles driven by teen drivers, and more than half (54%) of those passengers who died were NOT buckled up at the time of the fatal crash.
  + **Distracted Driving:** Distractions while driving are more than just risky — they can be deadly. In 2016, among teen drivers involved in fatal crashes, 10 percent were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.

* + **Speeding:** In 2016, almost one-third (31%) of all teen drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash, and males were more likely to be involved in fatal speeding-related crashes than females.
  + **Passengers:** Teen drivers transporting passengers can lead to disastrous consequences. Research shows that the risk of a fatal crash goes up dramatically in direct relation to the number of passengers in a car. The likelihood of teen drivers engaging in risky behavior triples when traveling with multiple passengers.
  + **Drowsy Driving:** Teens are busier than ever: studying, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and spending time with friends are among the long list of things they do to fill their time. However, with these activities, teens tend to compromise something very important — sleep. This is a dangerous habit that can lead to drowsy driving.

**What can I do to help make a difference in helping promote safety to teen drivers I know?**

THE SOLUTION — TALK REGULARLY TO YOUR TEEN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRIVING!

* During National Teen Driver Safety Week, from October 21-27, take the opportunity to start talking to your teens about safe driving practices and the consequences if they don’t obey the rules of the road.
* Get the facts about teen driving and share these statistics with your teen.
* Be a good role model for your teen driver and set an example with your own safe driving habits.
* Remind your teen that driving is a privilege, not a right, and it must always be taken seriously.
* Set the rules before they hit the road, and make it clear to your teen that violating the rules will have serious repercussions.

**Day 4**

# **Anti-Bullying**

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can:

* [Help kids understand bullying.](https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/index.html#Help) Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
* [Keep the lines of communication open](https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/index.html#Keep). Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
* [Encourage kids to do what they love.](https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/index.html#Encourage) Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
* [Model how to treat others](https://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/index.html#Model) with kindness and respect.

## Stop Bullying on the Spot

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

**Day 5**

## **Help Kids Understand Bullying**

[Kids who know](https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/facts/index.html) what bullying is can better identify it. They can talk about bullying if it happens to them or others. Kids need to know ways to safely stand up to bullying and how to get help.

* Encourage kids to [speak to a trusted adult](https://www.stopbullying.gov/respond/support-kids-involved/index.html) if they are bullied or see others being bullied. The adult can give comfort, support, and advice, even if they can’t solve the problem directly. Encourage the child to [report bullying](https://www.stopbullying.gov/respond/on-the-spot/index.html) if it happens.
* Talk about [how to stand up to kids who bully](https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/teens/index.html). Give tips, like using humor and saying “stop” directly and confidently. Talk about what to do if those actions don’t work, like walking away
* Talk about strategies for staying safe, such as staying near adults or groups of other kids.
* Urge them to [help kids who are bullied](https://www.stopbullying.gov/respond/support-kids-involved/index.html) by showing kindness or getting help.

*Source:* [*www.stopbullying.gov*](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

Additional bullying prevention and education resources can be found on the Santa Clara County Office of Education Safe & Healthy Schools page by clicking [here](https://www.sccoe.org/depts/schoolhealth/Pages/Bullying-Prevention.aspx).