

# Riding the Bus Just the *FAQs*

## 1. Isn't it safer to drive my kids to school?

No. National studies show that yellow buses are by far the safest form of transportation on our roads - about 2,000 times safer than the family car! In addition, Georgia is taking steps to run some of the cleanest buses in the nation. Some counties continue to set a nationwide example by beating national deadlines for cleaner, healthier bus strategies. Their commitment demonstrates concern for the health of the overall community is a real priority.

## 2. What do my kids need to know to ride the bus safely?

There are a few simple rules you and your child need to know to ensure a safe ride, according to the National School Bus Safety Week Committee:

- Stay out of the danger zone: always stand at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the bus and never cross behind it, so the driver can always see you.
- Never try to pick up anything that falls under the bus – always tell the driver.
- Stay a safe distance from the road while waiting for the bus.
- When you get on or off the bus, make sure the bus safety lights are flashing.
- Be alert to traffic. When getting on or off the bus, look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Wait for the driver to say it is safe to cross the street, and always cross in front of the bus.
- Stay in your seat and talk quietly so the driver isn't distracted.

## 3. How can riding the bus help fight air pollution?

More kids on the bus means fewer cars on the roads, and that can make a large impact on our air pollution problems. In metro Atlanta, cars and trucks cause the majority of smog-forming emissions. So, fewer cars mean healthier air for everyone!

## 4. No one in my family has asthma – why should I care about the air?

Even healthy children (and adults) can feel the effects of air pollution. Studies have shown that low levels of pollutants can be risk factors for respiratory symptoms in children; and can cause decreased lung function in healthy adults! And, by changing your behavior you can help the many children who do have asthma – in Georgia, the rate of asthma among children is 11 percent – five percent higher than the national average.

## 5. I like the time I spend with my kids in the car and don't want to give that up. What can I do?

Bus riding doesn't need to be a full-time commitment. Let your kids ride the bus just in the morning or afternoon, or for a few days each week! By riding the bus, your kids can feel proud knowing that they are doing their part to clean the air.