

# Saint Paul Public Schools

## 3 Ways to Stay Safe Around School Buses in the Snow

Winter weather can create a challenging commute for students and families in Saint Paul Public Schools — as well as school buses. Depending on many factors, bus routes may run late on the way to school, after school and for after school programs.

Please note that we continually monitor the weather situation so that we can provide you the best and most up-to-the-minute information. Please visit [spps.org/bus](http://spps.org/bus) to monitor your child's bus status. The information on [spps.org/bus](http://spps.org/bus) is updated once the bus driver reports a delay. For the latest information, download the [MySPPS app from Google Play and the Apple App Store](#).

### 1. Students should wait a safe distance for the bus.

- Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before scheduled pickup time. We don't want the buses and students moving at the same time on slick roads and sidewalks.
- Parents should discourage their children from standing on snow banks while waiting for the bus. Students might be standing on snow banks on the side of the road, making them susceptible to slipping and falling into the street.
- Students should wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- If your bus stop is on a steep hill, some buses might not be able to drive to the bus stop. If there is a hill at your child's bus stop, call the school to arrange a more accessible bus stop.

### 2. Dress warm waiting for late buses, be mindful of time.

- Students should dress warm when waiting at the bus stop (snow pants, gloves, scarves, ear muffs, etc).
- Parents should call their child's school to determine if their school bus is late; contact information is available on each school's website.
- Students should wait 10 to 15 minutes for their bus. But parents should use their judgment when allowing their child to wait for the bus past the scheduled time, especially during cold days.

### 3. Drivers should stay safely away from school buses, be alert.

- Motorists should keep at least a 7-second distance behind school buses while driving on the road. Buses stop frequently to pick up and drop off students, so motorists should be prepared to stop.
- Drivers should be aware when a bus is stopped because students may be coming from different directions across the street.
- Use caution near bus stops as children may be standing on snow banks where they could slip and fall into the street.

