

Stop for School Buses

Pre-reading

Questions:

- When do you need to stop for a school bus?
- What road rules should you follow when driving near a school bus?



Definitions:

- Amber – a yellowish brown color
- Retract – to take back or draw in
- Violation – the breaking of a law or rule
- Incident – something that happens; an event

Reading

We all want kids to be safe. Drivers play an important part in this effort. They need to watch for school buses and young riders. In the morning, people must be very **cautious**. There are many children outside waiting for buses.

Drivers must pay attention when following or meeting a bus. Flashing amber lights warn them to slow down. The bus will be stopping very soon.

Many people wait to slow down until they see the red lights or the extended stop arm. This may be too late. It is not safe to slam on the brakes. Drivers should safely stop at least 20 feet away from the bus.

Drivers need to treat the extended arm of the school bus like a regular stop sign. They must remain stopped until it is retracted. It is against the law to pass a school bus with an extended stop arm. It is against the law to drive through the extended stop arm when you meet a school bus.

Anyone can report a stop arm violation. Police officers do not need to **witness** the incident. Bus drivers often report unlawful drivers. Fines for breaking the stop arm law are costly. The minimum fine is \$300.00. In Minnesota police have up to four hours from the time of a reported incident to find the owner of the vehicle and **cite** them.

Understanding

1. What does the word **cite** mean in this reading?
 - a. The location of something.
 - b. The act of seeing.
 - c. To use the words of someone else.
 - d. To call to a court of law; to issue a ticket.
2. What is the fine for going through a school bus stop arm? _____

3. What does the word **cautious** mean? _____

4. Who can report a school bus stop arm violation? _____

5. When following or meeting a school bus, when should drivers prepare to stop? _____

6. What does the word **witness** mean in this reading? _____

Writing

Choice A: Write about what you have learned from this reading.

Choice B: Write about your experience with school buses.
