

Districts Vary on Adult Supervision at the Bus Stop for Afternoon Drop-Offs

By Stephane Babcock



Common practice in school transportation operations worldwide dictates that school bus drivers must ensure student safety at the bus stop after the child has safely disembarked the vehicle, but exact driver responsibilities can differ.

A conversation last fall between STN editors and representatives of school bus associations in Canada and Europe led to a question on the increasing number of attempted abductions at school bus stops. Officials from Association Internationale pour la Sécurité du Transport des Jeunes (AIST), or the International Association for Youth Transportation Safety, discussed how school bus drivers in their home countries must never leave young students without a parent present to pick them up. After contacting a number of districts around the country, it became clear that these practices are mirrored in the United States.

"We absolutely will not allow any student to depart the bus if they are unsure or apprehensive," said Annie Sharp, transportation director for Atascadero Unified School District, located northwest of Santa Barbara, Calif. "They stay with the driver, no matter what is in writing."

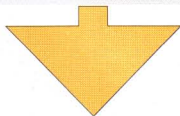
For the kindergarten students in her district, parents must be ready to pick up their children within a minute of the bus' arrival or they must pick their child up later at the transportation yard.

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