

Michigan Department of Education  
Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee  
Advisory Practice and Guideline

## **Backing School Buses**

In order to strengthen student safety for pupils that are transported on school buses, it is recommended that each local and intermediate school district (in coordination with contracted pupil transportation providers, if applicable) develop policies which recommend that backing of a school bus shall be avoided whenever possible. If backing of a school bus cannot be avoided, it is further recommended that procedures be developed that every school bus driver must follow if it is necessary to back up a school bus. Following are procedures to consider:

1. Design bus runs and routes to avoid backing buses.
2. Review the Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages to determine if **R 28.1449 Rule 449** which addresses limitations on backing of vehicles applies.  
[Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages](#)
3. If backing the school bus is unavoidable to accommodate passenger's needs, design bus routes to load children before turnarounds and unload them after turnarounds.
4. If backing a school bus is unavoidable refer to procedures that are outlined in the Beginning School Bus Driver Curriculum Unit VI – Loading and Unloading Passengers. Click [here](#) to view the procedures.
5. Determine if back-up alarm (beeper) may need to be added.
6. Sound the horn, if school bus does not have back-up beeper.
7. Periodically review each situation requiring a school bus to back up.

Student safety is a top priority of Michigan Department of Education. The Michigan Department of Education, upon the recommendation of the Pupil Transportation Advisory Committee, recommends the implementation of this practice for all pupil transportation providers.