

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

Pre-school Children Transportation Considerations

In order to strengthen safety for pre-school children 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 and procedures for transporting pre-school children to and from their programs. It is recommended that the following be taken into consideration when transporting pre-school children to and from their programs:

1. Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Licensing Rules for Child Care Centers – Part 4 Transportation Provisions Rules R 400.8701 – R 400.8770 are strongly recommended to be reviewed and complied with.
2. When pre-school children arrive at school, home, or other designated drop off point they should be received by a staff member, parent, or another responsible person as designated by the parent.
3. Pre-school children shall enter or leave the school bus from the curbside unless the vehicle is in a protected parking area or driveway or be assisted by a responsible adult.
4. Pre-school children shall be physically assisted when entering or leaving the school bus.
5. Pre-school children shall never be left unattended at any drop off point.
6. Procedures should be developed which identify actions school bus drivers should take if there is not an appropriate person to receive a pre-school child at the drop off point.
7. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, Child Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses, indicates school bus compartmentalization does not provide adequate protection for pre-school children. NHTSA recommends pre-school children riding on school buses be restrained in appropriate age, height, and weight Child Safety Restraint Systems.

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.