

**The following text discusses safe practices for sharing the road with different types of vehicles, emphasizing the importance of understanding and respecting their unique characteristics. It provides guidelines for interacting with large trucks and buses, including staying out of blind spots, avoiding sudden maneuvers, and yielding appropriately. Additionally, it offers tips for driving near school buses, highlighting the significance of obeying traffic signals and laws to ensure the safety of students getting on and off the bus. Overall, the text promotes vigilance, caution, and compliance with traffic regulations to prevent accidents and protect all road users.**

SHARING THE ROAD Sharing the road means that everyone has a right to use the road and a responsibility to follow the driving laws and look out for each other. A courteous, alert and knowledgeable driver makes our road safer for all. Bicycles, motorcycles, buses and trucks operate differently. You should keep these differences in mind and share the road safely with all Coloradans. Large trucks and buses: Due to their size and weight, large trucks and buses create unique situations for smaller motorists, and particularly, for people outside of cars. Trucks and buses require more room than automobiles to turn, change lanes and perform other driving maneuvers. Stay behind white-painted stop bars at stop signs and traffic lights because many are carefully measured to give trucks the room they need for turns. Trucks and buses have blind spots called "No Zones," which are areas around trucks/buses where cars disappear into blind spots or are so close that they restrict the truck or bus driver's ability to stop or maneuver safely. Vehicles traveling in No Zones cannot be seen and greatly increase the potential for a crash. Points to remember: ● Reversing: Do not pass or stop close to a truck/bus that is preparing to or is backing up, as the trailer will obstruct objects in the No Zone. ● Passing: Pass trucks quickly and on the left when possible. Since trucks require longer distances to slow down than cars, do not pull in front of a truck or bus until you can see both headlights on the front of the vehicle in your rear view mirror. ● Rear blind spots: Trucks and buses have large blind spots behind them. Do not tailgate. The driver cannot see you and it also cuts off your own view of traffic. ● Side blind spots: Trucks and buses have much larger blind spots on both sides than cars. If the truck or bus driver needs to make an emergency maneuver or change lanes, they will not be able to see you and it could cause a collision. ● Wide turns: Because of their size, trucks and buses often need to move to the left lane to make right turns. Cutting in between the truck or bus and the curb or shoulder increases the possibility of a collision. ● Runaway truck ramps: Occasionally trucks and buses lose their ability to brake. Runaway truck ramps were built to prevent serious crashes from out of control vehicles. Never chain up, change a tire or park on the ramp or the entrance -- it's both illegal and unsafe. One sign of a runaway truck or bus is Colorado Driver Handbook 20 smoke coming from the brakes. Get out of the way and do not get in front of the truck or bus. Bus-related tips include: ● Buses frequently stop. Stay alert when driving behind a bus to allow for smooth and safe stopping of your vehicle. ● If you are passing a stopped bus, use care because the bus may start to move out into your lane of traffic. ● Buses have the right-of-way when leaving a drop-off location and merging into traffic. ● Look for pedestrians who might be exiting or waiting to board the bus. ● Watch for people walking and loading bikes in front of the bus. School Buses: Use caution when driving near school buses, especially in neighborhoods and school zones, as these areas are likely to have students getting on and off as well as crossing roads. Overhead Yellow Warning Lights: When a school bus is about to stop and load or unload children, the bus driver activates amber warning lights. The yellow warning lights will stay on until the bus door opens. Overhead Red STOP Lights/STOP Arm: When the bus driver opens the bus door, the red STOP lights and STOP arm activates. Stop and remain stopped until the bus driver retracts the stop arm and deactivates the red warning

lights. Vehicles must stop no less than 20 feet from the front or rear bumper of the school bus.

**You Must Stop:** It is illegal and dangerous to not stop when a school bus has its stop lights on and stop arm extended. Always be alert for students on or near the roadway when a school bus is stopped. If a school bus displays alternating flashing red light signals, visible from the front or rear, you must stop at least 20 feet before reaching the bus. Do not proceed until the flashing red lights stop, and then proceed with caution. If you are traveling on a divided highway that has four or more lanes with a median separating the traffic, only the vehicles traveling in both lanes behind the school bus must stop, and not the traffic traveling in the opposite direction. If you are traveling on a two-lane roadway, traffic in both directions are required to stop. If you are traveling on a four-lane road without a median, traffic in both directions must stop. If you are traveling on a highway that has five or more lanes with a shared center turn lane, only the vehicle in both lanes behind the school bus must come to a complete stop. In this case, vehicles traveling in the opposite direction are not legally required to stop. Violating school bus traffic laws has serious legal consequences.