

Questions regarding bus lights:

**What do you do when you see flashing hazard lights on a bus?** Proceed with caution.

These are called “Hazard light stops” and are allowed in some situations where students will not be crossing the road. Motorist are allowed to pass the bus, but are urged to be alert: Children are unpredictable.

**What about those flashing yellow lights on top of the bus?** Prepare to stop.

Newer buses have flashing yellow (the state calls them “amber”) as well as flashing red lights. Bus drivers are required to trigger the yellow lights at 200 feet before their stop as a warning to motorists, similar to a yellow light on a traffic signal. Once the bus stops, the red lights go on and all traffic must stop.

**And the familiar red flashing lights, sometimes accompanied by the automatic stop on the side of the bus?** Please stop.

However, bus drivers must trigger whatever light system they have 200 feet before their stop. So, if it’s an older bus without the yellow warning lights, the red lights will go on early while the bus is still moving. If that’s the case, stop immediately if you can do so safely.

“In other word, if you are approaching a school bus that is still moving and displaying overhead red flashing lights, you should prepare to stop. But if you are at a point so close to the bus that you cannot stop safely, you are not required to stop” the handy Q&A reads, “Once the bus stops, everyone is required to stop”