

Safety Patrollers – Best Practices for Schools

Why?

- *Assist in ensuring students stay safe on the bus/ looking out for students in case a dangerous situation occurs*
- *Students have the opportunity to be role models for their peers/serves as a leadership opportunity*

Safety Patrol Mentors

- *Important that mentors participate in September training in order to answer safety patrol related questions*
- *Host regular Patrol meetings to discuss challenges and reward students*
- *Create a notice board to display shift schedules, upcoming meetings and events*
- *Required to show a CAA refresher video (foot and bus have separate videos) to patrollers sometime in February or March*

Selection of Safety Patrollers

- *Recruitment during the months of May and June for the following school year*
- *Consider running a patroller information session or booth at school*
- *Shadowing of current safety patrollers during May/June (use pins instead of vests to alert students they are “patrollers in training”, patrollers gain experience and decide if it’s for them*
- *Senior patrollers present experience at the end of the year assembly*
- *Helpful if patrollers are assigned to one of the first stop in the AM and one of the last stops in the PM*
- *Ask for volunteers and reach out to other reliable students*
- *Consider having a “lead” patroller of the three assigned to the bus*
- *What makes an ideal patroller? Students that are responsible, polite and lead by example.*

Safety Patrol Training in September

- *Patrollers must be fully trained in order to be covered by OSBIE*

Bus Patrols (front, middle and rear patroller)

- *Encourage students to get to know all students riding the bus*
- *Extra eyes and ears for the driver while the bus is in motion (driver’s first priority should be driving safely)*

- *Assist children getting on/off bus – assist younger children with steps, checking underneath the bus, ensure students don't walk in front of the bus and/or anywhere within the danger zone, ensure students are lining up in single file*
- *Be aware that kindergarten students may fall asleep*
- *Encourage students to get to know parents*
- *Students know where the radio, first aid kit and fire extinguishers are*
- *Reminders safety patrollers can give - ensure aisles clear, nothing is ever thrown out the window, students remain seated, keep volume in check - if ignored inform the driver*
- *Assigned positions of patrollers need to be adjusted if there are less than 3*
- *Only the front patroller should talk to the driver*

Walking Patrols (street, driveway and school pick up and drop off points)

- *Assist with the "kiss and rides"*
- *Two students need to be at each crossing point*
- *Patrollers keep students from entering roadways until it is safe*
- *They are **not** to stop or direct traffic*
- *Extra eyes and ears at crossing points and driveways*
- *Always remain on sidewalks and never cross students*
- *Remind classmates of rules*

How Can You Keep Patrollers Motivated Throughout the Year?

- *Supervisors recognize top patrollers in their school*
- *Surprise incentives or rewards for a patroller or team of patrollers (patroller of the month, or team of patrollers of the month/year)*
- *Patroller membership card used to get free entry to school events (dances)*
- *Safety messages said by the patrollers on the morning announcements*
- *Thank you cards*
- *CAA website has other low cost ideas through the school log in*