

# **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

## **2002**

### **Virginia State Law**

“A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who fails to stop, when approaching from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons, and to remain stopped until all such persons are clear of the highway or school driveway and the bus is put in motion.” (*Virginia State Police*)

### **National Statistics**

Since 1991, 1,479 people have died in school bus-related crashes – an average of 128 fatalities per year. (*NHTSA*)

An average of 9 children are fatally injured inside school buses annually. (*NHTSA*)

Approximately 22 children are fatally injured as pedestrians in the loading and unloading zone around school buses annually. (*NHTSA*)

Since 1991, 237 school-age pedestrians (less than 19 years old) have died in school bus-related crashes. Nearly two-thirds (64%) were killed by school buses, 4% by vehicles functioning as school buses, and 32% by other vehicles involved in the crashes. (*NHTSA*)

Nearly half of all school-age pedestrians killed in school bus-related crashes in 2002 were between the ages of 5 and 7. (*NHTSA*)

An average of 30 school-age children die in school bus-related traffic crashes each year – 9 school bus occupants and 22 pedestrians. (*NHTSA*)

Between 1992 and 2002, 100 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school bus or vehicle functioning as a school bus died. Half of those crashes (51%) involved another vehicle. (*NHTSA*)

Ninety-six percent of the estimated 8,500 to 12,000 children injured in school bus accidents annually are considered minor (scrapes, bumps, bruises, etc.) (*NHTSA*)

Four percent of the school bus-related injuries to children – about 350 to 475 annually – are serious (i.e., broken bones or worse). (*NHTSA*)

Since 1988, 6 drivers and 45 passengers have died in school buses providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.) (*NHTSA*)

More school-age pedestrians are killed in the afternoon than in the morning, with 41% of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. (*NHTSA*)

In 39% of all crashes involving fatalities to occupants of a school bus or vehicle used as a school bus, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle. (*NHTSA*)