

Answers to School Bus Driver Safety Quiz

1. **c** 18 football fields = average stopping distance of freight train
2. **d** Know the length of your bus. Add an extra 15 feet for safety!
3. **c** An optical illusion makes the train appear slower and farther away. If you see an approaching train, wait
4. **b** Slow down and prepare to stop.
5. **d** All of the above.
6. **d** All of the above.
7. **FALSE.** Trains always have the right-of-way at highway-rail crossings. The laws of physics make it unlikely a train can stop quickly enough to prevent a collision.
8. **TRUE.** Public highway-rail grade crossings are marked with a crossbuck sign.
9. **TRUE.** A STOP sign at a highway-rail grade crossing means the same as a STOP sign at any other highway intersection.
10. **TRUE.** A number posted below a crossbuck sign indicates how many train tracks cross at that highway-rail intersection.
11. **TRUE.** Lowered gates and flashing red lights mean a train is approaching. Do not cross!
12. **FALSE.** When there is more than one set of tracks, another train could be approaching from either direction, hidden by the first train.
13. **TRUE.** If the bus stalls, evacuate the students immediately. Look for an emergency notification number posted near the crossing. Call it to report the problem to the railroad or notify local law enforcement.
14. **TRUE.** Do not stop, even if it means the bus will break the gate.
15. **FALSE.** By the time the locomotive engineer can see a school bus on the tracks, it is too late to be able to avoid a collision. Trains cannot stop quickly, even after applying emergency brakes.
16. **TRUE.** School bus drivers are required to stop the vehicle no closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail.
17. **TRUE.** It is necessary and mandatory in most states and school districts to stop at all railroad crossings, whether the bus is loaded or empty. This way drivers know they always stop at the crossing (see your school district's policy).
18. **TRUE.** States may have more stringent laws than the federal government. Learn the laws in your state from your school bus trainer.

U. S. STATISTICS

You will find the most recent vehicle-train and pedestrian-train incident statistics at the Operation Lifesaver website: www.oli.org . These are based on updates from the Federal Railroad Administration.

TRAIN FACTS

- Stopping distance = 1 mile or more at 55 mph
- Trains have no steering wheel = trains cannot swerve
- Trains are heavier. 400 loaded school buses = 1 average train
(12 million pounds or 6 million tons)