

DECIDE SMART, ARRIVE SAFE

# Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Training for School Bus Drivers

Presented by Operation Lifesaver, Inc. in cooperation with the  
National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY



SAFETY QUIZ



**OPERATION  
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# School Bus Driver Safety Quiz

Circle the most correct answer to each question.

1. It takes a 100-car freight train going 55 mph a mile or more to stop. This is equal to how many football fields?

- a. 2
- b. 12
- c. 18
- d. 25

2. At crossings where there is a stop sign or a signal on the other side of the tracks, how does the driver determine if there is enough room (containment or storage area) for the bus?

- a. There's always room following a crossing.
- b. Get out of the bus and measure.
- c. Make a careful guess.
- d. Know the length of your bus. If you have any doubt about the containment area, don't take a chance. If it won't fit, don't commit. Add 15 feet for safety.

3. What causes drivers to misjudge whether it is safe to cross the tracks?

- a. Some drivers may not hear the train horn.
- b. Trains change speed unexpectedly.
- c. An optical illusion fools the eye in judging the distance and speed of the train.
- d. They think the train can stop for them.

4. This sign tells you to:

- a. Stop at this sign
- b. Slow down and prepare to stop at a highway-rail grade crossing.
- c. Look and listen for trains. If you see one, decide if you need to stop or not.
- d. No trains cross here.



5. This sign tells you to:

- a. Expect to see a train at this crossing.
- b. Yield to the train, if driving a school bus, stop.
- c. If there is more than one track, the sign below indicates the number of tracks present at the crossing.
- d. All of the above.



6. \_\_\_\_ If you believe signals are malfunctioning at the crossing, you should:

- a. Look for the railroad's emergency notification number near the crossing and report the problem. Contact your dispatch office.
- b. Do not cross. Wait for a properly identified railroad flagman or law enforcement officer to flag you across.
- c. Find another route if help does not arrive.
- d. All of the above.

Answer True or False to each statement.

7. \_\_\_\_ A school bus approaching a highway-rail intersection always has the right of way.

8. \_\_\_\_ A crossbuck is the most common sign at a railroad crossing.

9. \_\_\_\_ A STOP sign at a highway-rail grade crossing means the same as a STOP sign at any other intersection.

10. \_\_\_\_ A number posted below a crossbuck sign indicates how many train tracks cross at that highway-rail intersection.

11. \_\_\_\_ Lowered gates and flashing red lights mean a train is approaching. Do not cross!

12. \_\_\_\_ If the gates remain down after a train passes through a railroad crossing with more than one set of tracks, it is a malfunction.

13. \_\_\_\_ If your bus stalls on a track, never try to restart the bus. Evacuate the students immediately.

14. \_\_\_\_ If you have already started across the track and the gates begin to descend, continue to cross, keep going!

15. \_\_\_\_ A train can avoid a collision if the locomotive engineer applies the brakes upon seeing a vehicle on the tracks.

16. \_\_\_\_ A driver is required to stop the vehicle no closer than 15 feet from the nearest rail.

17. \_\_\_\_ School bus drivers should stop at ALL railroad crossings, whether there are students onboard or not.

18. \_\_\_\_ State and federal highway laws concerning school buses crossing railroad tracks are NOT exactly the same.

DECIDE SMART, ARRIVE SAFE

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