Parent or Guardian Responsibility For Students To And From Their Bus Stop

On July 1, 2000, a proviso in the state Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2001 affirmed parental or guardian responsibility for the safety and conduct of children traveling between their home and school bus stop. Immediately after the parental responsibility proviso was adopted, the State Department of Education (SDE) advised school districts of its existence and the authority for compliance.

A copy of the fiscal year 2005 parental responsibility proviso is provided below.

*1.35. (SDE: **Parent and Guardian Responsibility**) To protect the unwarranted expenditure of funds provided in Part IA, Section 1, VII.C., **the parents or guardians of a child being transported on a school bus are responsible for the safety and conduct of the child prior to the arrival of the school bus at the child's designated school bus stop for pick up and transport to school, and after the school bus drops off the child and departs the child's designated school bus stop when transporting the children from school**. The state's responsibility includes the arrival or departure of the school bus, which is defined as the time that the school bus assigned to the school bus stop activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops and loads or unloads students, and until the school bus deactivates all pedestrian safety devices.*

This proviso was developed by the SDE with the assistance of the Pupil Transportation Steering Committee for the purpose of clarifying the parent/guardian responsibility for children's safety and behavior before the bus arrives at the stop in the morning and after the bus leaves the stop in the afternoon. The SDE, while not shirking any of its responsibility for insurance coverage and student safety, encourages school districts to make parents and guardians aware of their key role in the responsibility for student safety.

We strongly encourage parental and adult supervision of students while they are awaiting or returning to their designated bus stop.