



CDL School Bus

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Practice Questions

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1. The danger zone immediately surrounding a school bus is defined as the area extending how far from every side of the bus?

- A. 15 feet from every side
- B. 20 feet from every side
- C. 5 feet from every side
- D. 10 feet from every side

2. When students must cross the road in front of a stopped school bus, they should walk to a point at least how far ahead of the front bumper before crossing?

- A. 15 feet ahead of the front bumper
- B. 5 feet ahead of the front bumper
- C. 10 feet ahead of the front bumper
- D. 20 feet ahead of the front bumper

3. Which mirror type is mounted at the front corners of a school bus and is primarily used to monitor the danger zone directly in front of and to the sides of the bus?

- A. Outside flat mirrors
- B. Outside convex mirrors
- C. Crossover mirrors
- D. Interior rear-view mirror

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4. Outside left and right flat mirrors on a school bus should be adjusted so that the driver can see which of the following?

- A. The entire undercarriage of the bus
- B. Only the lane immediately to the left of the bus
- C. 200 feet or four bus lengths to the rear along each side
- D. The top of the bus roof for height clearance



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5. The extended danger zone in front of a school bus — the area where an approaching driver might not stop in time — can reach up to how far ahead of the front bumper?

- A. 15 feet
- B. 20 feet
- C. 30 feet
- D. 10 feet

6. A school bus driver has just activated the loading zone. Before closing the door and moving, the driver should account for every student who boarded or alighted by doing what?

- A. Relying on the crossing guard to signal that the area is clear
- B. Counting all students who got on or off and confirming none remain in the danger zone
- C. Checking only the left flat mirror to see the sidewalk
- D. Counting students on the bus against the ridership list only after departing

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7. When properly adjusted, the outside convex mirrors on a school bus allow the driver to see which area that flat mirrors cannot adequately cover?

- A. Traffic 500 feet behind the bus on the highway
- B. The blind spot area along the sides and rear corners of the bus
- C. The entire roof of the bus for bridge clearance
- D. Oncoming traffic in the opposite lane

8. A student exiting the bus crosses to the right side of the road and then realizes she forgot something on the bus. She turns back and runs toward the bus. As the driver, what is your first priority?

- A. Contact dispatch to note the delay before taking any action
- B. Open the bus door to let the student retrieve the item quickly
- C. Signal the student with your hand to stop and do not move the bus
- D. Sound the horn to warn traffic and immediately pull away

9. Which statement correctly describes a properly adjusted crossover mirror image on a school bus?

- A. It shows a narrow, magnified strip of the road directly behind the rear bumper
- B. It reflects only traffic in the oncoming lane to warn the driver of head-on collisions
- C. It provides a direct rear view identical to an inside rear-view mirror
- D. It shows the entire front bumper area and both sides of the bus out to the front danger zone



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10. A school bus is stopped for loading on a two-lane road. In your flat mirror you can see a student standing 8 feet from the left rear corner of the bus. Which of the following correctly describes that student's status relative to the danger zone?

- A. The student is outside the danger zone because she is behind the bus, not in front
- B. The student is in the extended danger zone only, not the immediate danger zone
- C. The student is inside the danger zone because she is within 10 feet of the bus
- D. The student is safe because she is visible in the flat mirror

11. A driver notices that after adjustment the convex mirrors show an image in which the rear tires of the bus are not visible at the bottom of the mirror. What is the most likely problem and the correct fix?

- A. The convex mirrors cannot show rear tires and a different mirror type must be used for that view
- B. The mirrors are angled too far upward and should be tilted down until the rear tires appear at the bottom of the mirror frame
- C. The bus is too wide for the convex mirrors to capture the tire zone and no adjustment is possible
- D. The mirrors are angled too far downward and should be tilted up until the rear tires appear at the bottom of the mirror frame

12. Before a school bus proceeds after a stop, the driver uses all required mirrors in the correct sequence. Which sequence reflects CDL best practice for checking danger zones before moving?

- A. Check right convex mirror only, then honk twice and proceed
- B. Check crossover mirrors to clear the front zone, then left and right flat mirrors for side and rear zones, then confirm student count before moving
- C. Check the interior mirror first, then left flat, then right flat, then move
- D. Move forward slowly while scanning left flat, crossover, and right flat simultaneously

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13. A student is dropped off on the right side of a road and must cross to reach home on the left side. The driver cannot see the student in either the right flat or right convex mirror after the student stepped off. What does the CDL manual require the driver to do before pulling away?

- A. Delay departure until the student is visible crossing in front of the bus at least 10 feet ahead and makes eye contact with the driver
- B. Assume the student has already crossed safely and depart after a 5-second wait
- C. Radio dispatch to request a pedestrian spotter before moving
- D. Honk once and look in the left flat mirror to see if the student appears there

14. When should you activate your alternating flashing amber warning lights before stopping to load students?

- A. At least 100 feet before the stop in a school zone
- B. Immediately after coming to a complete stop
- C. Far enough in advance so approaching drivers have time to slow down
- D. Only when children are already waiting at the curb

15. Which lights replace the amber warning lights once a school bus is fully stopped and ready for students to board?

- A. Alternating flashing amber lights
- B. Alternating flashing red lights
- C. No lights are required once stopped
- D. Hazard lights (four-way flashers)

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16. How far ahead of the bus must students cross the road after loading or unloading, according to CDL school bus procedures?

- A. At least 5 feet in front of the right bumper
- B. At least 10 feet in front of the right bumper
- C. At least 15 feet in front of the right bumper
- D. At least 20 feet in front of the right bumper

17. What is the primary danger zone immediately surrounding a school bus?

- A. The area within 10 feet of any side of the bus
- B. The area within 30 feet directly in front of the bus only
- C. The area within 20 feet directly behind the bus only
- D. The area within 5 feet of any side of the bus



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18. What must you do after all students have boarded and before you close the door and move the bus?

- A. Verify seatbelts are buckled for every student
- B. Perform a full walk-around exterior inspection
- C. Account for all students who approached the bus to ensure none remain in the danger zone
- D. Radio dispatch that loading is complete

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19. A student waiting at the stop drops a backpack under the bus as you are completing loading. What is the correct action?

- A. Tell the student to board, then retrieve the item yourself after the student is seated
- B. Move the bus forward slightly so the student can reach the item safely
- C. Have the student move back to a safe distance and secure students already on board before addressing the situation
- D. Instruct the student to retrieve it quickly while you watch

20. How far does the extended danger zone in front of a school bus reach, within which a driver must be especially vigilant for students?

- A. 15 feet
- B. 10 feet
- C. 30 feet
- D. 20 feet

21. You approach a loading stop and a student signals they need to cross the street to board from the opposite side. What must the student do before crossing?

- A. Wait until you sound the horn twice as a signal
- B. Wait for you to exit the bus and escort them across
- C. Make eye contact with you, then walk to a point at least 10 feet ahead of the right bumper before crossing
- D. Walk along the shoulder to a crosswalk further down the road

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22. Which phase of the school bus trip is described in the CDL manual as the most dangerous for students?

- A. Loading and unloading at bus stops
- B. Traveling on the highway between stops
- C. Railroad-highway grade crossing procedures
- D. Navigating school zone intersections

23. As you approach a designated school bus stop, there are students gathered on the opposite side of the road. What is your first action?

- A. Activate amber warning lights well before reaching the stop
- B. Stop in the nearest travel lane and open the door
- C. Wait for all students to cross before activating any lights
- D. Sound the horn to alert students you are arriving

24. Why must a school bus driver count students as they board, in addition to counting them when they exit?

- A. State fire codes require occupancy tracking on all commercial vehicles
- B. Federal law requires a written manifest for every trip
- C. To ensure no student is left behind at the stop or inadvertently left on the bus
- D. To report ridership numbers to the district each run

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25. A student who has just boarded realizes they left something on the ground outside the bus. The door is still open and no one else is boarding. What must the driver do?

- A. Instruct the student to wave a passing adult over to retrieve the item
- B. Deny the student permission to exit, secure all students, and retrieve or address the item without allowing anyone back into the danger zone
- C. Allow the student to step off briefly since the door is still open and traffic is stopped
- D. Close the door, move the bus forward to clear the item, then reopen for the student to retrieve it

26. After all students have boarded, which sequence of actions correctly reflects CDL manual procedure before moving the bus?

- A. Close door → deactivate red lights → check mirrors → move
- B. Deactivate red lights → close door → check mirrors → move
- C. Account for all students in danger zone → close door → check mirrors → deactivate red lights → move
- D. Check mirrors → close door → deactivate red lights → move



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27. When a student must cross the road after being unloaded, how far in front of the bus must the student walk before crossing?

- A. At least 10 feet in front of the bus
- B. Even with the front bumper is acceptable
- C. At least 20 feet in front of the bus
- D. At least 5 feet in front of the bus

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28. After stopping to unload students, the driver activates the alternating red lights and extends the stop arm. What is the driver's FIRST responsibility regarding students who must cross?

- A. Release the parking brake and prepare to move
- B. Radio dispatch to log the stop
- C. Watch in the mirrors only and wait for students to cross on their own
- D. Count every student off the bus and direct those crossing to walk 10 ft ahead before crossing

29. What is the purpose of requiring crossing students to walk to a point at least 10 feet ahead of the front bumper?

- A. So oncoming traffic can see them sooner
- B. To comply with state speed-limit sign distances
- C. So the driver can maintain a clear line of sight to the student before signaling them to cross
- D. To keep them away from the bus exhaust pipe

30. A student who has just exited the bus drops a book within the 10-foot danger zone near the front wheel. What should the driver do?

- A. Tell the student to quickly pick it up before any traffic arrives
- B. Instruct the student NOT to retrieve the item and proceed without it until it is safe to do so
- C. Pull forward slowly so the student can reach it safely
- D. Open the door and lean out to hand it back



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — 10 feet from every side

The FMCSA/AAMVA CDL manual defines the danger zone as the area within 10 feet of the school bus on all sides, where children are at greatest risk of being struck because the driver's visibility is most limited.

2. C — 10 feet ahead of the front bumper

Students are instructed to walk forward until they can see the driver's face and are at least 10 feet ahead of the front bumper, placing them outside the front danger zone and in the driver's field of view before crossing.

3. C — Crossover mirrors

Crossover (cross-view) mirrors are mounted on the front corners of the bus and give the driver a wide-angle view of the area directly in front of and to both sides of the front bumper, which is otherwise a blind zone.

4. C — 200 feet or four bus lengths to the rear along each side

Per CDL manual guidance, outside flat mirrors must be adjusted to show at least 200 feet (approximately four bus lengths) to the rear along each side of the bus so the driver can monitor traffic and students near the sides.

5. C — 30 feet

The CDL manual notes that the danger zone in front of the bus can extend up to 30 feet, because oncoming or passing vehicle drivers may not stop quickly enough to avoid a child who steps out from in front of the stopped bus.

6. B — Counting all students who got on or off and confirming none remain in the danger zone

The CDL manual requires drivers to count every student who boards or exits and visually confirm through mirrors that no student is still in any danger zone before moving the bus.

7. B — The blind spot area along the sides and rear corners of the bus

Convex mirrors provide a wide-angle, panoramic view of the sides and rear corners, filling in the blind spots that straight flat mirrors cannot adequately cover due to their limited field of view.

8. C — Signal the student with your hand to stop and do not move the bus

The CDL manual instructs drivers to use a hand signal to stop the student and hold the bus in place until the student is safely clear of all danger zones, because movement of the bus while a student is in a danger zone is one of the most dangerous situations.

9. D — It shows the entire front bumper area and both sides of the bus out to the front danger zone

A correctly adjusted crossover mirror displays the entire front bumper, both sides of the bus up to the side mirrors, and the ground in front of the bus, allowing the driver to spot students in the front danger zone.

10. C — The student is inside the danger zone because she is within 10 feet of the bus

The 10-foot danger zone surrounds all sides of the bus including the rear; any person within 10 feet of any exterior surface is inside the danger zone regardless of which side they are on, and the driver must not move



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until that student is clear.

11. B — The mirrors are angled too far upward and should be tilted down until the rear tires appear at the bottom of the mirror frame

CDL manual guidance specifies that convex mirrors should be adjusted so the rear tires are visible at the bottom of the mirror; if the tires are missing, the mirror is aimed too high and must be tilted downward to capture the full side-and-rear blind zone.

12. B — Check crossover mirrors to clear the front zone, then left and right flat mirrors for side and rear zones, then confirm student count before moving

The CDL manual prescribes starting with crossover mirrors to verify the front danger zone is clear, then scanning each flat and convex mirror pair to clear the sides and rear, and confirming all students are accounted for before releasing the brake.

13. A — Delay departure until the student is visible crossing in front of the bus at least 10 feet ahead and makes eye contact with the driver

The CDL manual requires that when a student must cross the road, the driver must see the student walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus (visible through the crossover mirrors), make eye contact, then signal the student to cross before the bus moves.

14. C — Far enough in advance so approaching drivers have time to slow down

FMCSA CDL manual states amber warning lights must be activated far enough in advance of the stop to give drivers adequate warning — typically at least 100 feet in urban areas and 300 feet in rural areas — so traffic can safely slow before you stop.

15. B — Alternating flashing red lights

After the bus comes to a complete stop, the driver switches from alternating flashing amber lights to alternating flashing red lights, signaling to all traffic that students are actively loading or unloading.

16. B — At least 10 feet in front of the right bumper

The CDL manual requires students who must cross the road to walk at least 10 feet ahead of the right front bumper before crossing, ensuring the driver can see them at all times.

17. A — The area within 10 feet of any side of the bus

The CDL manual defines the immediate danger zone as the area within 10 feet of all sides of the school bus, where the driver's visibility is most limited and students face the greatest risk.

18. C — Account for all students who approached the bus to ensure none remain in the danger zone

The CDL manual instructs drivers to count and account for every student who was waiting at the stop, confirming no student is still in the danger zone around the bus before moving.

19. C — Have the student move back to a safe distance and secure students already on board before addressing the situation

FMCSA guidelines state students must never retrieve dropped items near or under the bus; the driver must manage the situation so no student enters the danger zone, which means directing the child away and handling it safely before moving.

20. C — 30 feet

The CDL manual notes that the danger zone can extend up to 30 feet in front of the bus because that entire



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area may be in the driver's blind spot, making it critical to know all students are clear before moving.

21. C — Make eye contact with you, then walk to a point at least 10 feet ahead of the right bumper before crossing

CDL manual protocol requires students crossing in front of the bus to first establish eye contact with the driver, then walk to a position at least 10 feet ahead of the right bumper so the driver can see them throughout the crossing.

22. A — Loading and unloading at bus stops

The FMCSA CDL manual explicitly identifies loading and unloading as the most dangerous part of a school bus trip because students are outside the bus and in or near the danger zone.

23. A — Activate amber warning lights well before reaching the stop

The CDL manual requires drivers to activate alternating flashing amber warning lights far enough in advance of the stop to warn other drivers, regardless of where waiting students are positioned relative to the road.

24. C — To ensure no student is left behind at the stop or inadvertently left on the bus

The CDL manual directs drivers to count students boarding and alighting so they can account for every child — confirming no student has been left at the stop, is still in the danger zone, or is unintentionally left on the bus.

25. B — Deny the student permission to exit, secure all students, and retrieve or address the item without allowing anyone back into the danger zone

Once a student has boarded, the CDL manual's danger-zone principles prohibit re-entry into the danger zone; the driver must secure the bus and passengers first, ensuring no one exits into the area around the bus.

26. C — Account for all students in danger zone → close door → check mirrors → deactivate red lights → move

The CDL manual requires the driver to first confirm all students are accounted for and out of the danger zone, then close the door, conduct a thorough mirror check, and finally cancel the red warning lights before pulling away.

27. A — At least 10 feet in front of the bus

FMCSA/AAMVA CDL manuals require students who must cross the road to walk at least 10 feet ahead of the front bumper so the driver can see them clearly before signaling them to cross.

28. D — Count every student off the bus and direct those crossing to walk 10 ft ahead before crossing

The CDL manual requires the driver to account for all students exiting and to supervise those who must cross by directing them to walk at least 10 feet ahead of the bus and into the driver's line of sight before crossing.

29. C — So the driver can maintain a clear line of sight to the student before signaling them to cross

The 10-foot rule ensures the student is visible to the driver through the windshield; if the student is any closer the driver cannot see them around the hood and front danger zone.

30. B — Instruct the student NOT to retrieve the item and proceed without it until it is safe to do so

The CDL manual explicitly warns that a student who drops something near the bus must NEVER re-enter the danger zone to retrieve it, because the driver may not be able to see the student; the item must be left until the bus moves away safely.



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