In response to an increase in school bus stop incidents, the Office of School Bus Safety has created this document to help ensure students and parents understand school bus stop safety and know how to handle outside factors while waiting for the school bus.

**Approaching the Bus Stop**

1. Arrive on Time
   1. Be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive to avoid rushing.
2. Walk Safely
   1. Always walk to the bus stop using sidewalks or designated pathways.
   2. Avoid cutting through private property or crossing streets unsafely.
3. Use Crosswalks
   1. Cross streets only at designated crosswalks and follow traffic signals for safety.
4. Stay Visible
   1. Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially in low-light conditions, to ensure drivers can see you clearly.
5. Avoid Distractions
   1. Keep your focus on your surroundings by avoiding headphones, texting, playing on electronic devices, or other distractions while walking to the bus stop.

**Waiting for the Bus**

1. Keep a Safe Distance
   1. Stand at least six feet, or three giant steps, away from the curb or roadway to stay out of harm’s way.
2. Wait in a Group
   1. If possible, stay with other students for added safety and visibility.
3. No Roughhousing
   1. Avoid pushing, shoving, or playing near the road to prevent accidents.
4. Respect Property
   1. Stay off neighbors' lawns and driveways while waiting for the school bus.
5. Stay Alert
   1. Watch for approaching vehicles and always remain aware of your surroundings.

**Boarding the Bus Safely**

1. Wait Until It’s Safe
   1. Only approach the school bus after it has come to a complete stop, the door has opened, and the driver has signaled that it’s safe to board.
2. Use Handrails
   1. Hold onto the handrail while climbing the steps to avoid slipping or falling, especially in wet or icy weather conditions.
3. Take Your Seat Quickly
   1. Go directly to your seat, sit down promptly, and face forward while keeping aisles clear of belongings.

**Additional Safety Tips**

1. Avoid Loose Clothing Hazards
   1. Be mindful of loose clothing and backpack straps or drawstrings that could get caught in doors or handrails when boarding or exiting the school bus.
2. Always Stay Visible
   1. Make sure you are in a visible location and avoid hiding behind objects while waiting for or exiting the school bus.
3. Cross Safely in Front of the Bus
   1. If you need to cross the street after getting off the school bus, walk five giant steps in front of it, make eye contact with the driver, and cross only when they signal it is safe to do so.
   2. Never cross behind the school bus.
4. Inform the Driver if You Drop Something
   1. If you drop an item near or under the bus, inform the driver of the incident to ensure they know where you are at all times.
   2. Only retrieve items when the driver says it is safe to do so.
5. Be Cautious of Other Vehicles
   1. Even though traffic is required to stop for a school bus with flashing lights, always check for other vehicles before crossing the road.