



School Safety and Security

October 2018

Transportation Safety

Safety by Design

The school bus is the safest vehicle on the road and children are much safer taking a bus to and from school than traveling by car. Source: National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

- Different by Design: School buses are designed so that they're highly visible (yellow) and include safety features such as flashing red lights, cross-view mirrors and stop-sign arms. They also include protective seating, high crush standards and rollover protection features. [Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 49 CFR]
- Protected by Law: Laws protect students who are getting off and on a school bus by making it illegal for drivers to pass a school bus while dropping off or picking up passengers, regardless of the direction of approach. [29-A M.R.S. § 2063(9) and 2308]

School Buses are the largest mass transportation fleet in our country. Safety and security are vital.

Transportation Security Resource

Transportation is critical to our nation's security. First Observer Plus™ is a training program administered by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Transportation sector professionals spend their work day in and around our nation's transportation system. They are in a unique position to be the eyes and ears of local communities, and could help disrupt a terrorist attack.

- Trained first observers can report suspicious transportation-related activities to 9-1-1 and to TSA.
- First Observer Plus™ does **not** replace 9-1-1.
- The program complements security awareness of the If You See Something, Say Something™ campaign.

Who should complete First Observer Plus™?

- School bus drivers
- Surface transportation sector professionals
- Transportation managers

What does the program teach?

- Observing suspicious behavior
- Assessing the situation
- Reporting information

Where is training available?

- [First Observer Training](https://www.tsa.gov/for-industry/firstobserver) is available online (hyperlink), <https://www.tsa.gov/for-industry/firstobserver>
- or in person

Is the training free? Yes.



For more information on the bulletin topic, please contact the MEMA Public Information Officer Susan Faloon at susan.faloon@maine.gov