

“SOAR” Fundamentals

STATION 1

1. **SOAR:** When **Elvis** flies he soars. When we travel on a school bus, he **wants us to SOAR too!**
 - a. **Safely, Orderly And Respectfully!**
 - b. Your parents expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful, your teachers expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful.
 - c. **Elvis and your driver expect you to be safe, orderly and respectful too, in and around the school bus!**

2. **The Danger Zone** is **12 feet all the way around the school bus!** 12 feet equals **6 giant steps** for elementary school students.
 - a. **Only approach a school bus at the door,** and only **if the driver has given you the signal** that it's ok. Before you move, look both ways for danger!
 - b. Stay far away from the wheels and bumpers of a school bus.
 - c. **If you get close to the school bus we can't see you! If we can't see you, we can't protect you.**

3. **Drop Stop and SOAR:** Have you ever used a signal to communicate? We communicate with our students using sign language. So now we're going to start learning how drivers will signal us during our school bus route. What should you do if you drop something at the stop or around the school bus? If something was lost or broken, how might mom or dad replace it? If something happened to you, could they replace you?

- a. **If you drop** something, **you should STOP!** (hands up at shoulders) Don't bend over and don't try to pick it up! Instead, **THINK;** what SHOULD I do?
- b. **SOAR! Make sure you're out of the danger zone** and signal the driver using your Elvis wings. **Make it a HUGE signal** by flapping your wings so the driver will see you! When the **driver** sees you they **will signal you by using the "ok" signal.** THEN you can pick it up. Signal the driver with a **BIG thumbs up** when you have picked up your item and are **completely out of the danger zone!**
- c. **Remember, if you do not get the driver's attention, stay out of the danger zone, go home and ask your parent to help you!**

STATION 2

4. **Morning crossing procedure:** If you need to cross the road to get to the bus stop **wait 12 feet from the side of the road for the driver's signal.** They will give you the two finger sweep signal.

- a. After the signal and **before you move, look for danger, right and left!** If it's safe, move towards the street and **before you step into the street look for danger again, both left and right!**
- b. If safe **cross completely** across the street **staying alert** for danger!
- c. If you hear the **horn** it's a **warning signal!** **Stop, find the danger** and **move away!** Move back to your waiting spot or move quickly across the street to get away from the danger!
- d. Once you cross **stay 12 feet from the bus** and walk down to the door. Wait for the driver's signal to board. After you get the signal, you may **proceed single file, use the handrail and go directly to your seat!**

STATION 3

5. **Afternoon crossing procedure:** If you need to cross the road to get home in the afternoon **wait for the driver's signal. They will hold their index finger in the air to signal all "crossers" that it's time to get off the bus. Before you step off the bus, look left and right for danger!**
- a. **Walk 6 giant steps away from the school bus** (out of the 12 foot Danger Zone) and to the tip of the crossing guard.
 - b. The driver will give **TWO signals** during the crossing procedure. The first will tell you to **cross half way** across the street **even with the driver** (watch where her fingers point and REMEMBER! **Before you move, look for danger**) **When you get there STOP!**
 - c. Look for the second signal from the driver. After the second signal and **before you move, look for danger, right and left!** If it's safe, move across the street while staying alert for danger. Continue until you are (12 feet) off the road and walk safely home!
 - d. If you hear the **horn** it's a **warning signal!** **Stop, find the danger** and **move away!** Move back to your waiting spot or move quickly across the street to get away from the danger!

STATION 4

6. Loading procedure: When getting on or off your school bus, **stay on the path directly in front of the open door. Stay 6 giant steps or 12 feet away** from the school bus at all other times. **Never go behind a school bus. Never go near the wheels or bumpers of a school bus. NEVER, EVER chase a school bus if you missed it.**

- a. **In the morning arrive 5 minutes early** to your bus stop. **Line up single file, 12 feet away from the road,** and **wait for your bus driver's hand signal** to load the bus. After your driver has given you the safety signal to load, **check for traffic left and right** before you move to load the bus.
 - i. **Stay alert for danger,** walk to the stairs, hold the safety rail and walk directly to your seat.
- b. **In the afternoon, wait for your driver's hand signal** before you stand to exit your bus. When you have received your driver's hand signal stand, walk to the stairs; hold the safety hand rail **and check traffic left and right before you step off of your bus.**
 - i. Move away from your school bus and **stay 6 giant steps or 12 feet away** from the front and sides, remember to never go behind a school bus. **Go directly home!**

STATION 5

7. Evacuation: What would you do if we needed to get off the school bus quickly? Identify the exits (*front door, rear door, labeled windows and roof hatch(es)*).

- a. The most common evacuation is **front door** which we **practice every day when we get off at school**.
- b. The least common would be the windows or roof hatches which would only be used in an EXTREME emergency.
- c. If we needed to get off very quickly we might use **dual door** or if the front door was blocked we would use the **rear door evacuation**.
 - i. **Complete quiet**. LISTEN FOR INSTRUCTIONS!
Wait for the driver's signal.
 - ii. Exit **seat by seat, left to right, back to front**.
Do not move until the seat behind you has cleared their aisle space.
 - iii. **Sit down completely, arms straight in front and scoot off the bus AFTER** the "helpers" have grasped your elbows and wrists.
 - iv. **Walk 100 feet (50 giant steps)** away from your bus to your designated waiting area. Stay together. **Be orderly and calm. Wait for the driver** to tell you what to do next!

STATION 6

8. SOAR WITH ELVIS PLEDGE!

- a. Line students up and bring ELVIS in to take the picture. Now that you've learned HOW to SOAR will you pledge to SOAR with Elvis on the school bus?
- b. Repeat after me... Pledge
- c. On three, say SOAR! Picture