

Teacher's Guide

September

Transportation Disruptions



Putting on the Brakes! What to Do When Transportation Shuts Down

Public transportation makes our lives easier. Most of the time we don't have to fight traffic, find a parking place, or figure out an alternate route. However, public transportation sometimes shuts down due to severe weather, track maintenance, a sick passenger, police investigations, a school bus strike, or an accident.

Discuss with your students when and why this happens, what to do if a transportation disruption occurs suddenly, and what to do if they must switch modes of transportation unexpectedly.



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Let's get ready and stay safe even if public transit is a no-go!

Safety Tips for Riding on the Subway

Review these tips with your students, courtesy of the New York City Department of Education.

- Stand back away from the platform.
- Never jump onto the tracks for ANY reason.
- Do not attempt to get on the train once it has started moving.
- If there are no seats, find a pole to hold onto.
- If the train is stuck in between stations or must stop for any other reason, stay calm, listen for instructions, and remain on the train. Do not pull the emergency brake.

Safety tips for riding a bus

Review these tips with your students, courtesy of the New York City Department of Education.

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes early.
- When you are waiting for the bus, stand at least six feet away from the curb.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road six feet ahead of the bus. Be sure that you can see the bus driver and he or she can see you.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.
- Always walk in groups.
- Board and leave the bus one at a time.
- Stay seated on the bus at all times, with a seat belt fastened.
- Act responsibly and follow the driver's instructions.
- Speak quietly. Do not speak to the driver when the bus is in motion.
- Keep heads and hands inside the bus at all times. Never throw anything inside the bus or out the window.
- If the bus breaks down or must make an emergency stop, listen carefully to the driver's instructions.
- Take school bus drills seriously.



Department of Education
Office of Emergency Management

Reinforce the message of safety during transportation disruptions and build skills across the curriculum with these simple activities:



Language Arts

Create a board game called Transportation Aggravation. Model for students how to draw a grid or path on the board. Label spaces with different transportation challenges: “Hurricane headed our way, all transportation has shut down. Move back three spaces.” or “Good news! Today you’re taking a field trip on the Staten Island Ferry. Move ahead two spaces.” Invite younger students to play.



Math

Ask the students to conduct a survey of their classmates. Record on the board how each student arrives at school in the morning (bus, train, walking, car) and how far he or she travels. Have each child use the information to create a word problem that addresses your current math unit.



Social Studies

What careers are associated with the business of transportation? Create a list and investigate the background and education needed for each.



Science

What color do you think is the safest? Many people think the color red gets our attention first, but scientific studies have shown that yellow grabs our attention the best. Yellow is easier to see in your peripheral vision and in the dark. Investigate these studies and design your own class experiments with color. Then make a list of objects—including school buses—that are yellow.

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