



Valley View Public Schools

*Serving portions of Bolingbrook, Romeoville, Lemont,
Plainfield, Downers Grove and Lockport*

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Safety director says school buses the safest way to go; but schools, community must work hard to keep it that way

Ensuring safety for students who ride the bus to school must be a team effort, according to Kevin Orzechowski, safety director for the Naperville Bus Transportation System.

Speaking at the Valley View School District's School Safety Conference, Orzechowski said parents, bus drivers and administrators must "all work together to ensure success."

"We always need to be prepared in order to make our schools safer for children every day," he said.

That means schools need to:

- Educate passengers on the danger zone while waiting for and exiting a bus with special attention paid to the education of kindergartners through third graders.

- Educate drivers on the dangers of bullying on a school bus.

- Work with drivers to identify unsafe stops.

- Re-route away from at-risk railroad crossings and intersections

- Provide consistent and quality training for drivers

- Ensure accountability for special needs students

- Set medical assistance expectations for drivers

"Statistically taking a bus to school is safer than walking to school or if a parent is driving the child to school," Orzechowski said.