

How school buses became the safest ride for students



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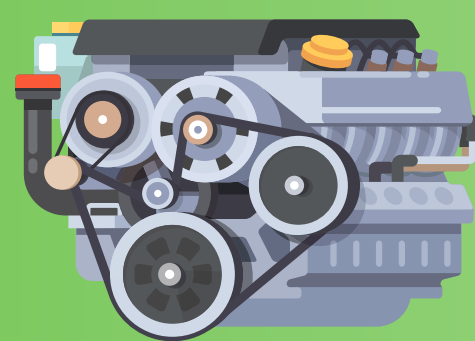
1800s to 1890s Horses came first.

Student transportation started with horse-drawn carriages, known as “kid hacks” or “school hacks.” These had bench seats that could accommodate 20 passengers, and a rear entrance so the horses wouldn’t be startled.



1900 to 1930 Engines replaced horses.

Combustion engines replaced horses and, as a result, carriage designs were reinforced and adapted to fit truck frames. To make these new vehicles even safer, school bus manufacturers also started using steel bodies and safety glass in the windows.



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1939 Yellow became iconic.

Now formally known as “National School Bus Glossy Yellow,” the color became standard for school buses. Not only is it attention-grabbing, black text is easily visible against the yellow in early morning light.

National School Bus
Glossy Yellow



1950 to 1970s Booming population, booming advances.

With the post-World War II baby boom, school buses needed to accommodate the influx of riders—safely. Numerous new features included roof-mounted escapes, push-out windows, stronger chassis designs, wheelchair lifts, flashing lights and stop arms.



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1970s to today Meet the modern bus.

Sophisticated features such as stop arm cameras, GPS vehicle tracking, alerts for parents, diagnostic technology, inspection technology, child check alert systems and safety-related legislation make today’s school buses the safest transportation for student riders.

