



School Bus Crossing Arms Usage by State

A **school bus crossing arm** is a safety device intended to protect children from being struck while crossing in front of a school bus. Typically, school bus crossing arms are wire or plastic devices which extend from the front bumper on the right side of the bus while it is stopped for loading/unloading and form a barrier. The devices force children, who need to cross the road, to stand several feet in front of the bus itself before they can begin to cross the road. This ensures that the bus driver can see them as they cross, avoiding a common blind spot immediately in front of the bus, closest to the bumper. The crossing arm retracts flush against the bumper while not activated, such as when the bus is in motion.

Unlike traffic warning lights and many other safety-related features typically found on school buses in the United States, crossing arms are not required by the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for school buses. Regulations for equipment and use vary widely on a state-by-state basis.

The following states **require** the installation and use of a crossing arm (as of January 2019):

AL	NJ
AR	NM
CT	NV
DE	PA
FL	SC
GA	TN
IA (Type C Only)	TX
IL	VA
KY	WA
MN	WI
MO	WV
MS	WY (Type C Only)
NC	

Canada: required per D-250-16 (incorporated in most Canada provincial legislation.)

A crossing arm **MAY** be used at local discretion in the following states (as of January 2019):

AK	MT
AZ	ND
CA	NE
CO	NH
HI	NY
ID	OH
IN	OK
KS	OR
LA	RI
MA	SD
MD	UT
ME	VT
MI	