# School bus Driver Safety – Evacuation Procedures Stats and Facts

## FACTS

1. **Inadequate Training:** Drivers and students without regular evacuation training may panic or act chaotically during emergencies, delaying safe exits and increasing injury risks.
2. **Blocked Exits:** Clutter, such as backpacks or debris, obstructing emergency exits (e.g., rear doors, roof hatches) can hinder evacuation, especially in smoke-filled or overturned buses.
3. **Lack of Student Assistants:** Not designating trained student helpers to assist with exits or headcounts can slow evacuations, particularly for younger or disabled students.
4. **Time-Critical Evacuations:** Delays in evacuating due to untrained drivers or students can be life-threatening in fast-spreading emergencies like fires, where every second counts.
5. **Accessibility Challenges:** Failure to account for students with disabilities (e.g., mobility aids, sensory impairments) in evacuation plans risks leaving them vulnerable during emergencies.
6. **Communication Failures:** Drivers without clear communication tools (e.g., two-way radios) or protocols may struggle to coordinate evacuations or summon help, compromising safety.

## STATS

- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) noted in 2023 that schools conducting at least two evacuation drills annually reduced emergency response times by up to 25%.

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) stated in 2022 that 10% of school bus incidents requiring evacuation were delayed due to blocked exits or untrained students.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey found that 20% of school bus drivers reported challenges evacuating students with disabilities, often due to lack of specialized training.
- A 2023 School Bus Fleet report indicated that districts with monthly evacuation drills for all grade levels saw a 40% improvement in evacuation efficiency compared to those with annual drills.
- WorkSafeBC reported in 2022 that 8% of school bus-related safety incidents in British Columbia involved evacuation delays, with 50% linked to poor student preparation or clutter.
- A 2022 Journal of School Safety study found that 15% of school bus fire incidents required evacuations, with 70% of successful evacuations attributed to prior driver-led drills.