

# Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

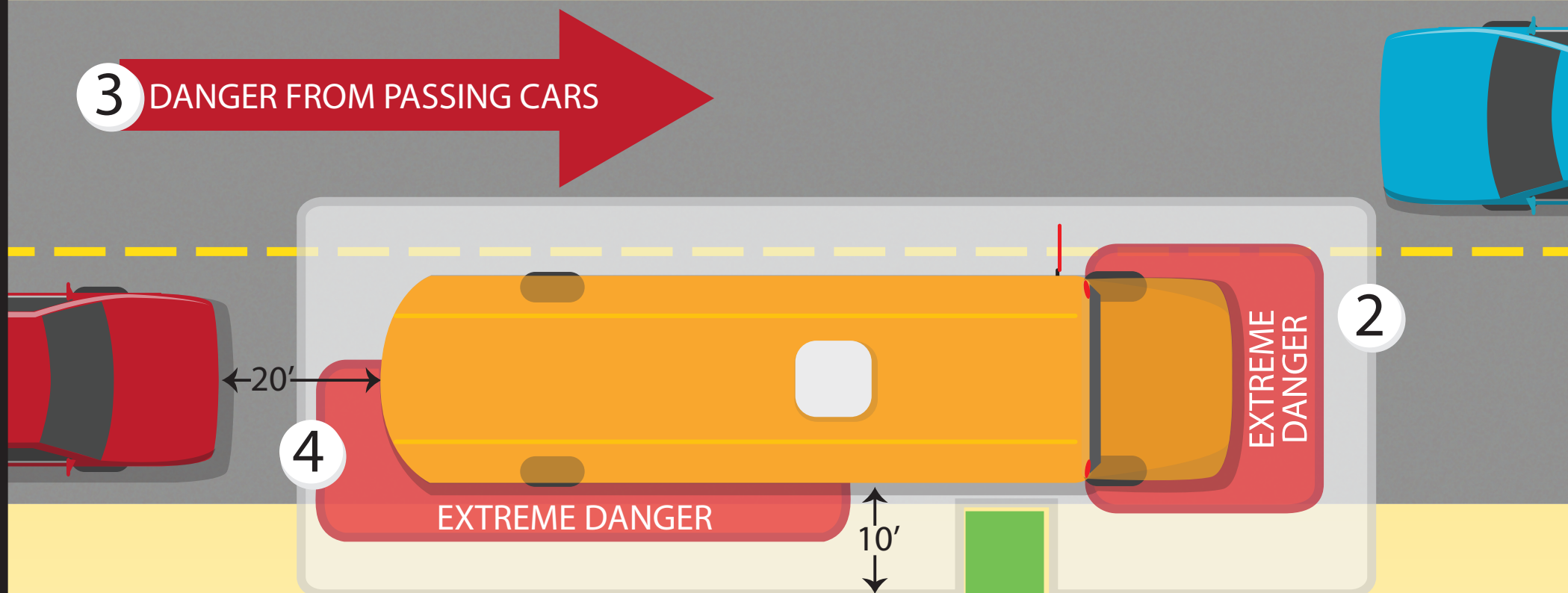


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# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY



## 3 DANGER FROM PASSING CARS



The law requires all **school buses** in **Wisconsin** to have **flashing amber lights**, used as a warning to drivers that the **bus** is preparing to stop when the **flashing lights** are activated.

- 1 Children should walk straight ahead, away from the bus for at least 10 feet.
- 2 The front of the bus is the most dangerous area. Within the danger zone are a number of "blind spots" in which the driver cannot see small children.
- 3 A passing car cannot see a child since the large bus hides the children from the sight of the vehicle.
- 4 Small children are in danger in back of the bus since the bus driver cannot see these children at all.

Children must be educated to move forward away from the bus until they can see the bus driver's face; then the bus driver can see them as well

## RED LIGHT VS. YELLOW LIGHT STOPS

- A driver of a vehicle meeting, from either direction, a stopped school bus with flashing red lights - may not proceed until the flashing red lights have stopped.
- Vehicle drivers proceeding in the opposite direction on a divided highway need not stop for a school bus with flashing red lights. A divided highway is a highway with a permanent structure preventing vehicles from crossing from one side to the other.
- **RED LIGHTS MAY NOT FLASH IN:**
  1. School bus loading areas - where the bus is entirely off the traveled portion of the road.
  2. Residence or business districts where pupils or other authorized passengers are to be loaded or unloaded where a sidewalk and curb are laid on both sides of the road unless otherwise required by a municipal ordinance such as Sturtevant.
- A special education bus on a one-way street where a sidewalk and curb are laid on both sides of the road and the student needs to cross the road, shall use the flashing red lights.