Schoolbus Safety – Handling Unruly or Distracting Students Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Driver Distraction:** Unruly students can divert the driver's attention from the road, increasing the risk of accidents.
2. **Increased Stress Levels:** Managing disruptive behavior can elevate the driver's stress, potentially impairing judgment and reaction times.
3. **Compromised Safety Protocols:** Distractions may lead to neglecting standard safety procedures, such as proper mirror checks and adherence to traffic signals.
4. **Escalation of Misbehavior:** Without effective management, minor disruptions can escalate into more serious incidents, jeopardizing the safety of all passengers.
5. **Delayed Response to Hazards:** A distracted driver may not promptly react to external hazards, such as sudden stops or obstacles on the road.
6. **Legal and Liability Issues:** Accidents resulting from driver distraction due to student behavior can lead to legal consequences and financial liabilities for the school district.

STATS

- A study by United Educators found that accidents involving distracted school bus drivers constituted 16% of total public school claims, resulting in over $7 million in losses.
- The National Center for Education Statistics reported in July 2022 that 84% of public schools observed a decline in students' behavioral development due to the pandemic, leading to increased disruptions on school buses.
- Reports indicate that over 70% of behavior issues on school buses involve middle school students. Distractions caused by unruly behavior can pose risks not only to the students involved but also to the driver's ability to operate the bus safely.
- According to Transport Canada's National Collision Database, distracted driving contributed to an estimated 22.5% of fatal collisions and 25.5% of serious injury collisions in 2021 underscoring the broader risks associated with inattention while driving.
- A 2019 survey revealed that nearly half of Canadians witnessed a distracted

driver in a school zone, highlighting the prevalence of this issue.