2025-2026

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS

Loading and Unloading Survey



KANSAS
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

October 27, 2026

The Kansas State Department of Education School Transportation Safety Unit wishes to thank the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services for its assistance with this report.

The National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey is a collection of fatality accident reports submitted by state agencies responsible for school transportation, accident records, or both.
The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), with assistance from the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), requests annual data submissions from all states and the District of Columbia. KSDE compiles, analyzes, and publishes the survey findings each year.

The survey includes only fatalities involving children in or around the loading and unloading zones of a school bus. This includes students and other children present at or near the bus stop, such as younger siblings and preschool-aged children.

Despite ongoing safety initiatives, these tragic incidents continue to occur under a variety of circumstances, including errors by both motorists and school bus drivers. The findings reinforce the importance of comprehensive training for school bus drivers and students, as well as ongoing public education regarding school bus stop-arm laws and the critical need for motorists to obey them.

The 2025-2026 National School Bus Loading and Unloading Survey is available exclusively online. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to reproduce, distribute, and use the survey data to support school transportation safety efforts.

** Numbers are only as accurate as the reporting agency provides.*

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: Sarah, Evelyn, Owen, Landon and Duane - Shawnee Heights USD 450

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2025-26 NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS LOADING AND UNLOADING SURVEY

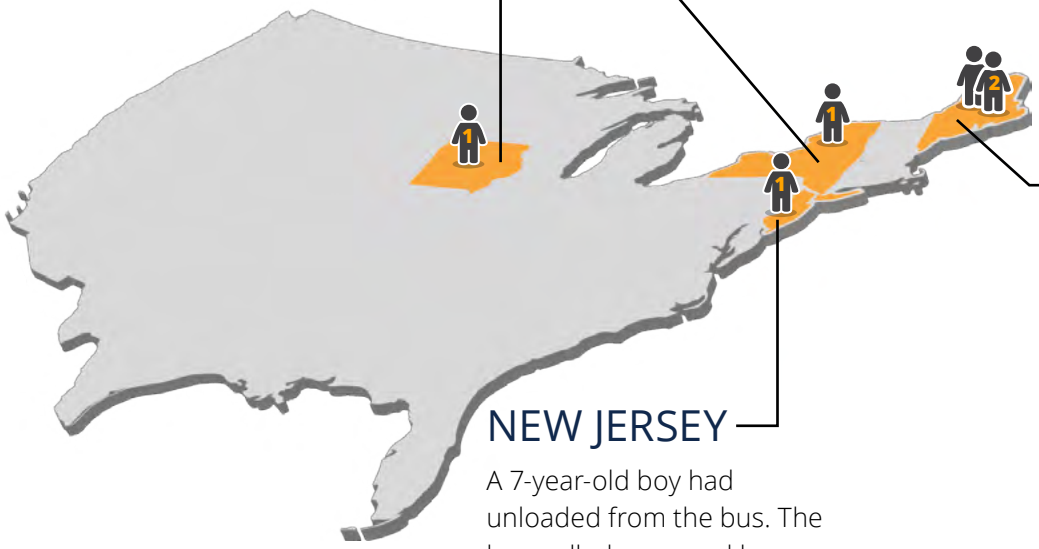
Reports of Fatalities By State

IOWA

An 11-year-old boy was running to catch the bus. The student ran along the right side of the bus and slipped on gravel. The student was struck and killed by the right rear wheels of the bus.

NEW YORK

A 5-year-old boy was running to catch the bus. The student slipped in the snow and was struck and killed by the right front wheel of the bus.



MAINE

A 12-year-old boy unloaded from the bus with two other students. The bus driver did not see the student. The bus moved forward, and the student was struck and killed by both the right front and right rear wheels of the bus.

A 5-year-old boy was running to board the bus. Another student had just boarded, and the driver did not see the student as the doors closed on the student's arm. The student was dragged 280 feet before being struck and killed by the rear wheels of the bus.

NEW JERSEY

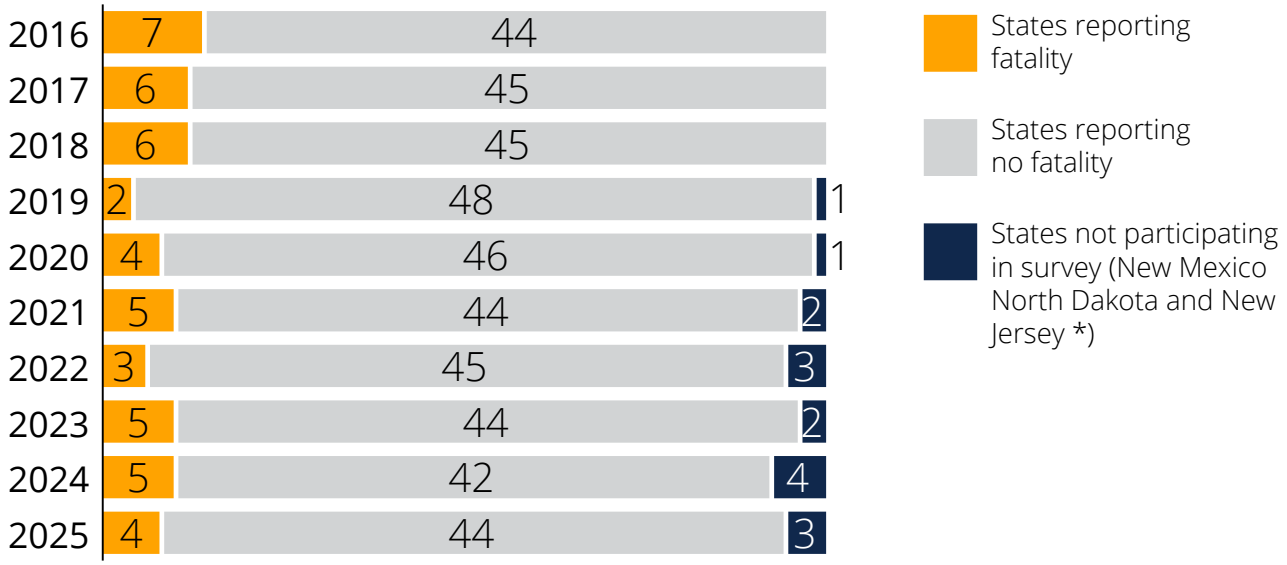
A 7-year-old boy had unloaded from the bus. The bus pulled away and began making a right turn as the student crossed the street in front of the bus. The student was struck and killed by the front wheel of the bus.*

* *Data from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). New Jersey did not participate.*

Reports of Fatalities By State

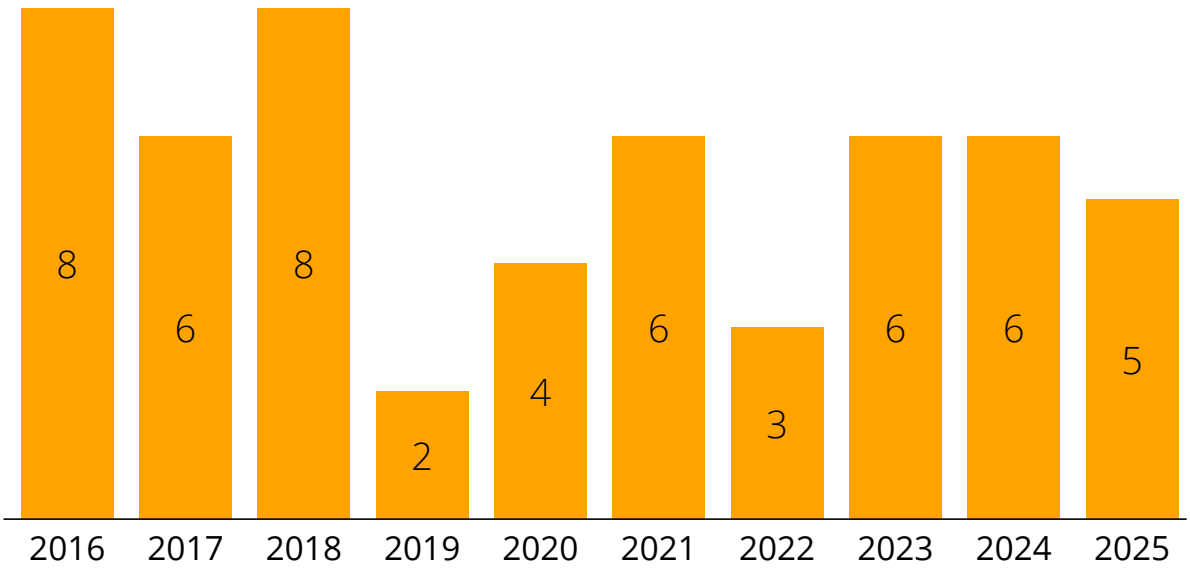
Number of States Reporting Fatalities

50 States and Washington, D.C.



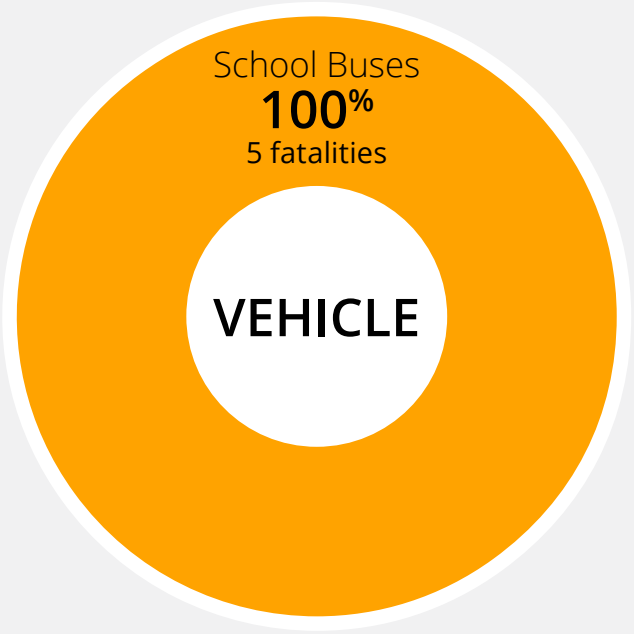
10-Year Survey of Total Fatalities

50 States and Washington, D.C.



Vehicle

School Buses vs. Other Vehicles

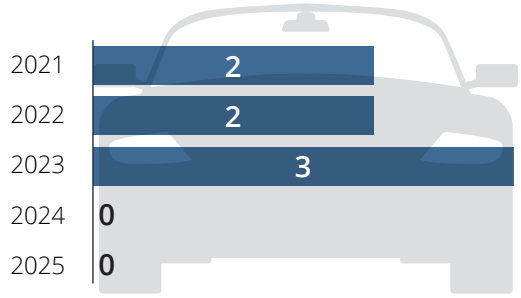


One hundred percent of fatalities were attributed to school buses during this time period.

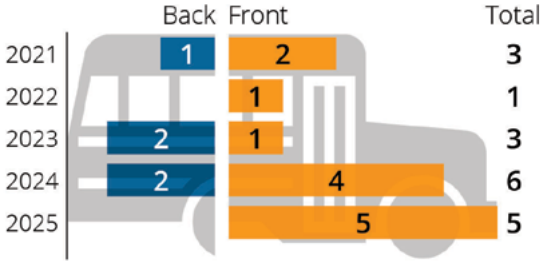
School Bus Type

Year	Type A	Type C	Type D	Total
2021	0	3*	1	**4**
2022	0	**1**	0	**1**
2023	0	**3**	0	**3**
2024	1	**4**	1	**6**
2025	0	**5**	0	**5**

School Children Killed by Vehicle Passing School Bus



Position of Child When Killed by School Bus

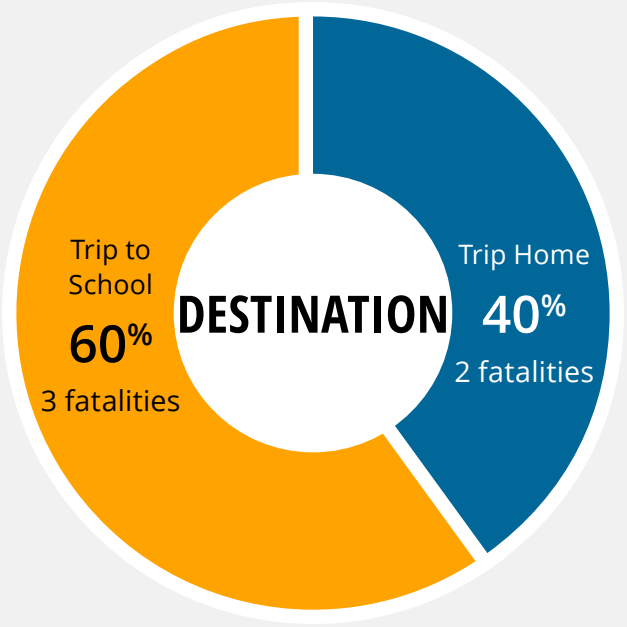


Objects Caught or Dropped

Year	Closed Door	Dropped Object	Total
2021	0	0	**0**
2022	0	0	**0**
2023	0	1	**1**
2024	0	1	**1**
2025	1	0	**1**

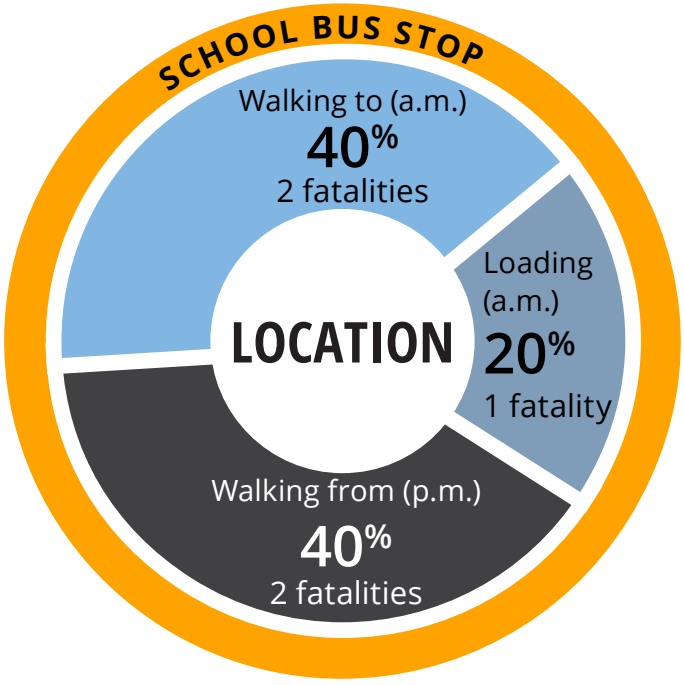
***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

Destination



Year	Trip to School	Trip Home	Total
2021	3	3*	**6**
2022	3	0	**3**
2023	2	4	**6**
2024	3	3	**6**
2025	3	2	**5**

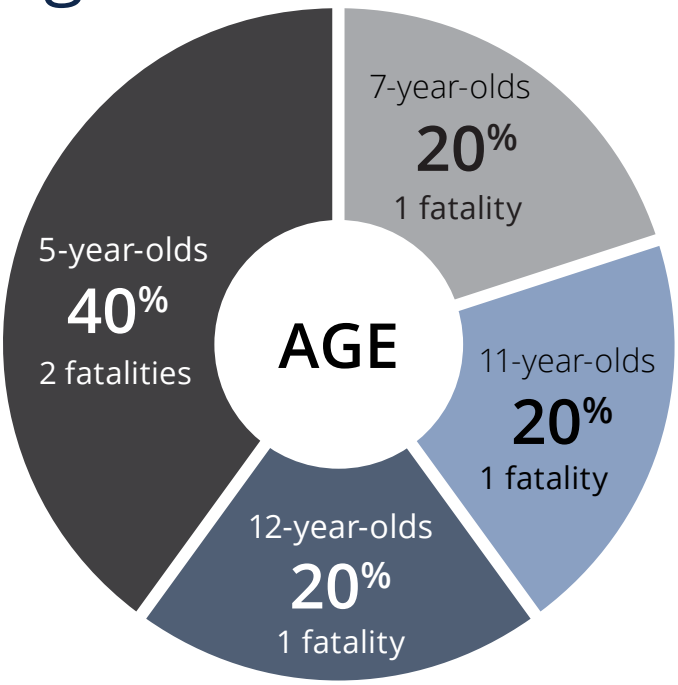
Location of Fatality



	SCHOOL BUS STOP					SCHOOL GROUNDS		
Year	Walking to (a.m.)	Waiting (a.m.)	Loading (a.m.)	Unloading (p.m.)	Walking from (p.m.)	Unloading (a.m.)	Loading (p.m.)	TOTAL
2021	1	2	0	2	0	0	1*	**6**
2022	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	**3**
2023	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	**6**
2024	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	**6**
2025	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	**5**

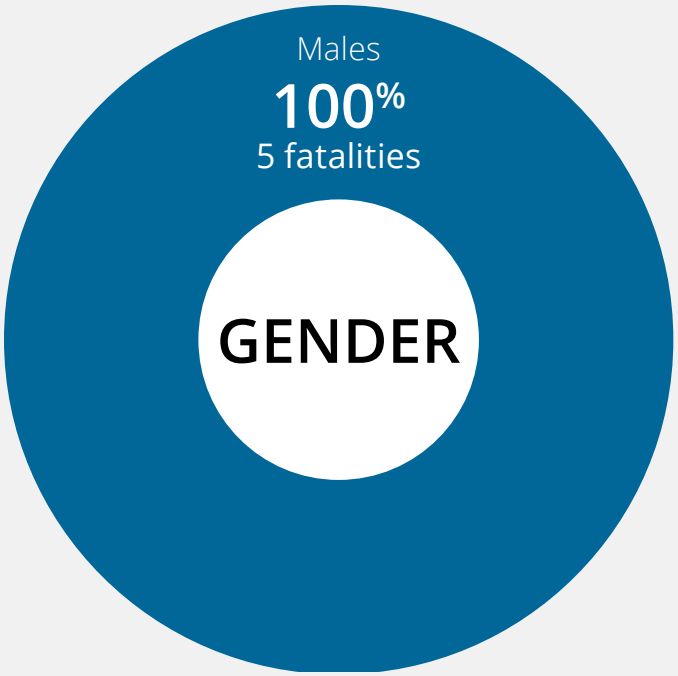
***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

Age



	Year				
Age	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	1	3	2
6	2	0	0	1	0
7	0	0	0	1	1
8	0	0	2	0	0
9	0	0	1	1	0
10	1	0	0	0	0
11	1	0	0	0	1
12	0	0	0	0	1
13	0	1	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	2	0	0
16	1	1	0	0	0
17	1*	0	0	0	0
Total	**6**	**3**	**6**	**6**	**5**

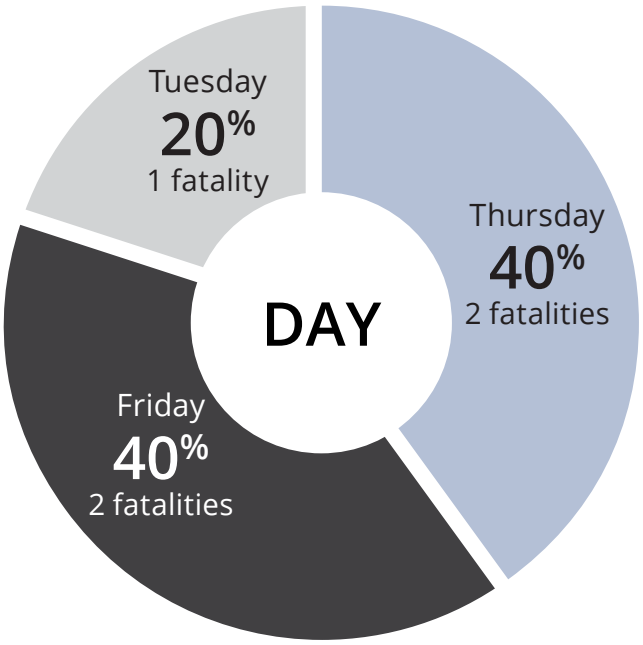
Gender



Year	Female	Male	Total
2021	4	2*	**6**
2022	2	1	**3**
2023	3	3	**6**
2024	1	5	**6**
2025	0	5	**5**

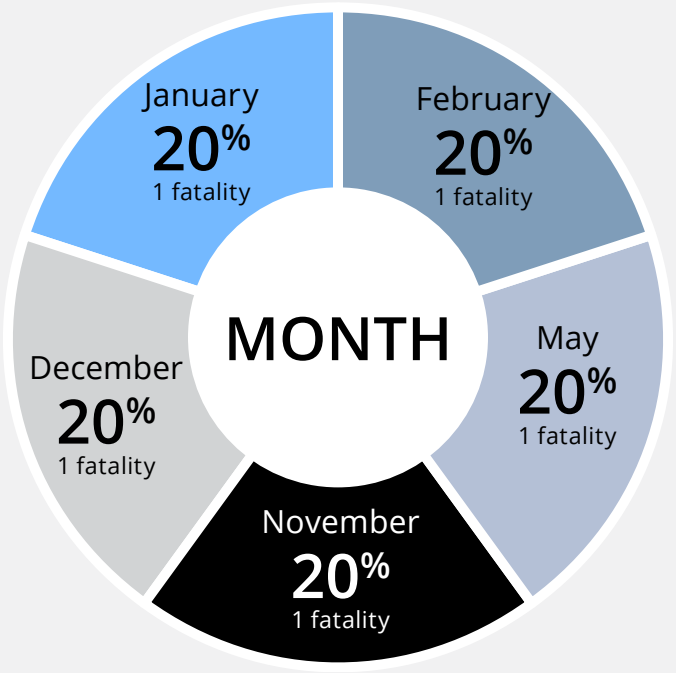
***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

Day of the Week Fatality Occurred



Year	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	**Total**
2021	0	3*	0	1	2	0	**6**
2022	1	0	0	1	0	1	**3**
2023	0	1	1	0	3	1	**6**
2024	0	1	1	0	3	1	**6**
2025	0	0	1	0	2	2	**5**

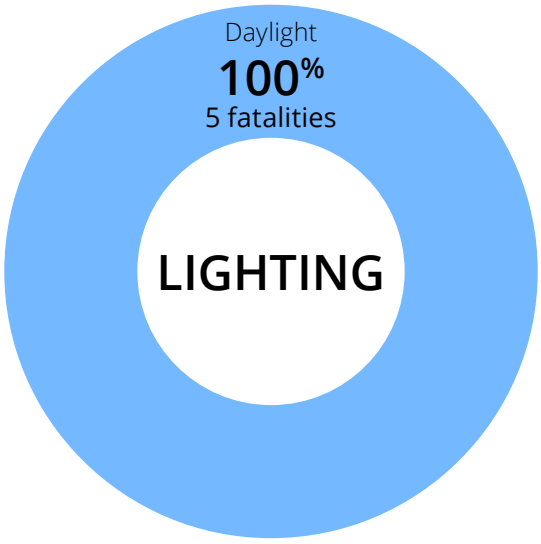
Month Fatality Occurred



Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Jan.	0	0	2	1	1
Feb.	0	0	2	0	1
Mar.	2*	0	0	1	0
Apr.	1	0	0	2	0
May	0	1	0	0	1
Jun.	0	0	0	0	0
Jul.	0	0	0	0	0
Aug.	1	0	0	1	0
Sept.	1	0	0	0	0
Oct.	0	1	1	0	0
Nov.	0	0	0	1	1
Dec.	1	1	1	0	1
Total	**6**	**3**	**6**	**6**	**5**

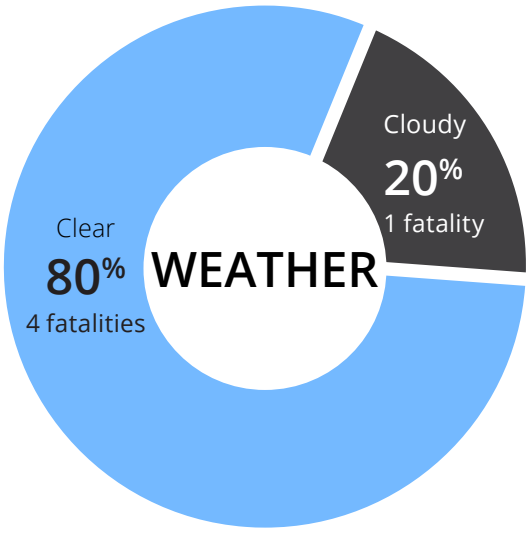
***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

Lighting Conditions



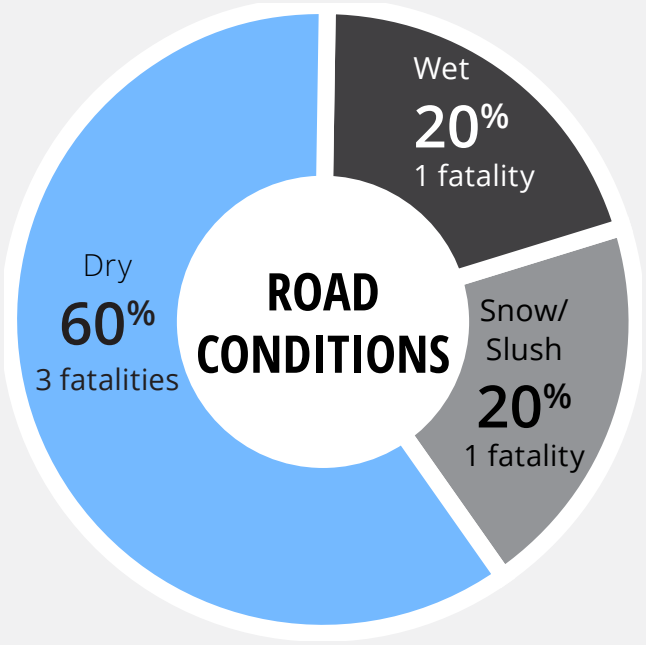
Year	Dawn	Daylight	Dark	Dusk	**Total**
2021	2	4*	0	0	**6**
2022	0	2	1	0	**3**
2023	1	3	0	2	**6**
2024	0	5	1	0	**6**
2025	0	5	0	0	**5**

Weather Conditions



Year	Clear	Cloudy	Fog	Rain	**Total**
2021	6*	0	0	0	**6**
2022	3	0	0	0	**3**
2023	5	1	0	0	**6**
2024	5	1	0	0	**6**
2025	4	1	0	0	**5**

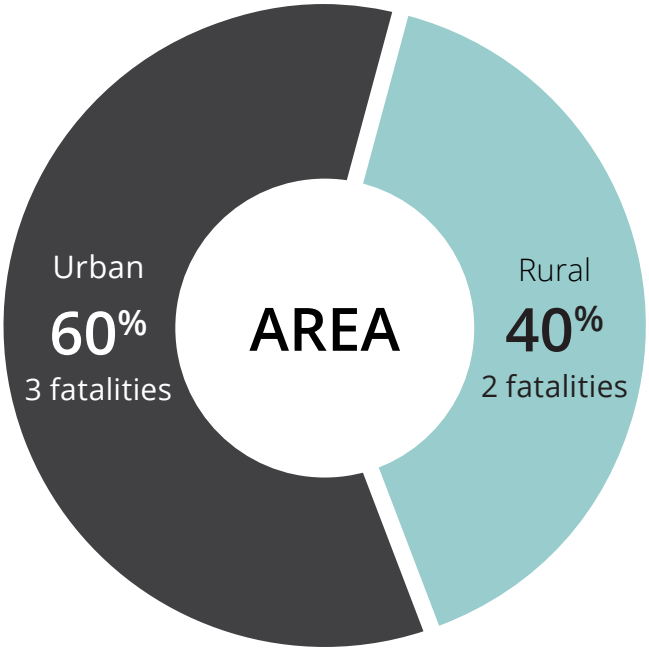
Weather-Related Road Conditions



Year	Dry	Wet	Snow/Slush	**Total**
2021	6*	0	0	**6**
2022	3	0	0	**3**
2023	6	0	0	**6**
2024	6	0	0	**6**
2025	3	1	1	**5**

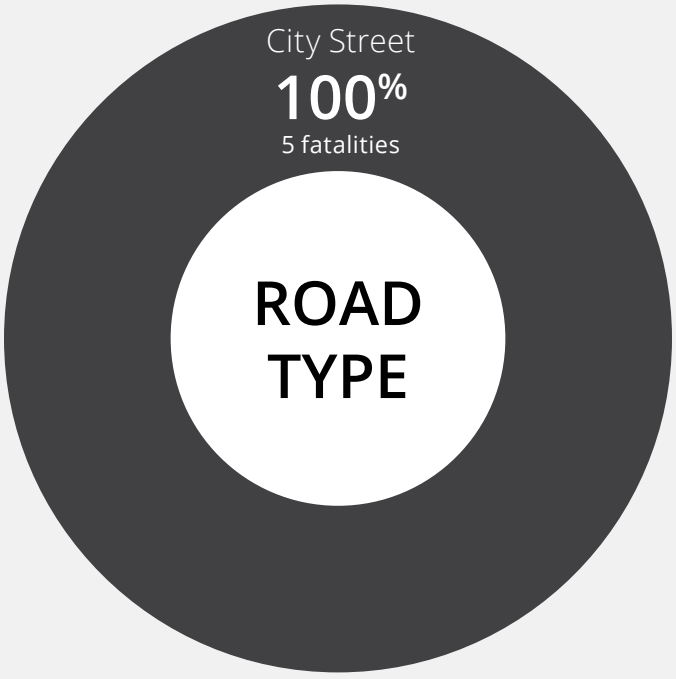
***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

Area Where Fatality Occurred



Year	Rural	Urban	Total
2021	2	4*	**6**
2022	2	1	**3**
2023	3	3	**6**
2024	2	4	**6**
2025	2	3	**5**

Road Type



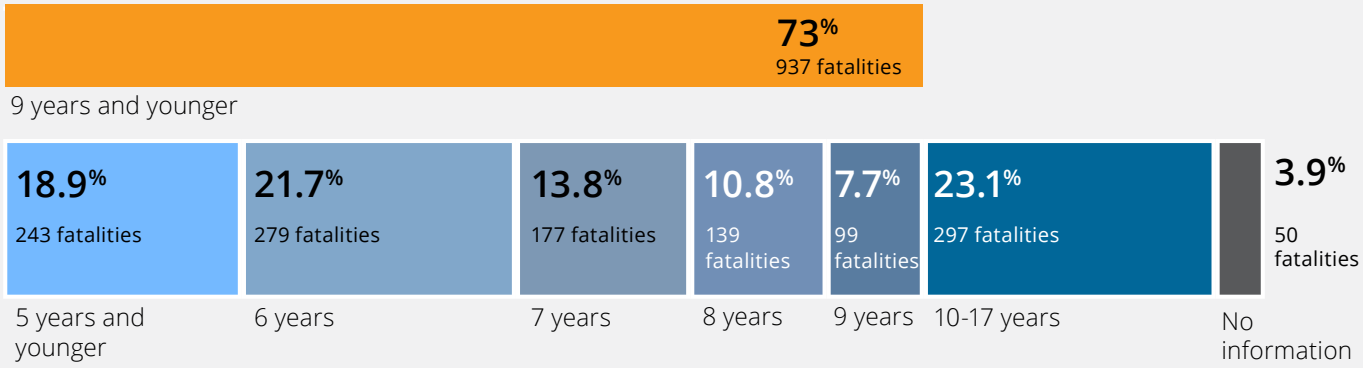
Year	City Street	State Highway	Federal Highway	County Road	Private Property	Total
2021	3	0	0	2	1*	**6**
2022	1	1	0	1	0	**3**
2023	1	1	1	1	2	**6**
2024	4	1	0	0	1	**6**
2025	5	0	0	0	0	**5**

***** *Indicates fatality of a 19-year-old student with special needs.*

56-Year Summary

Total student fatalities: 1,284

Age

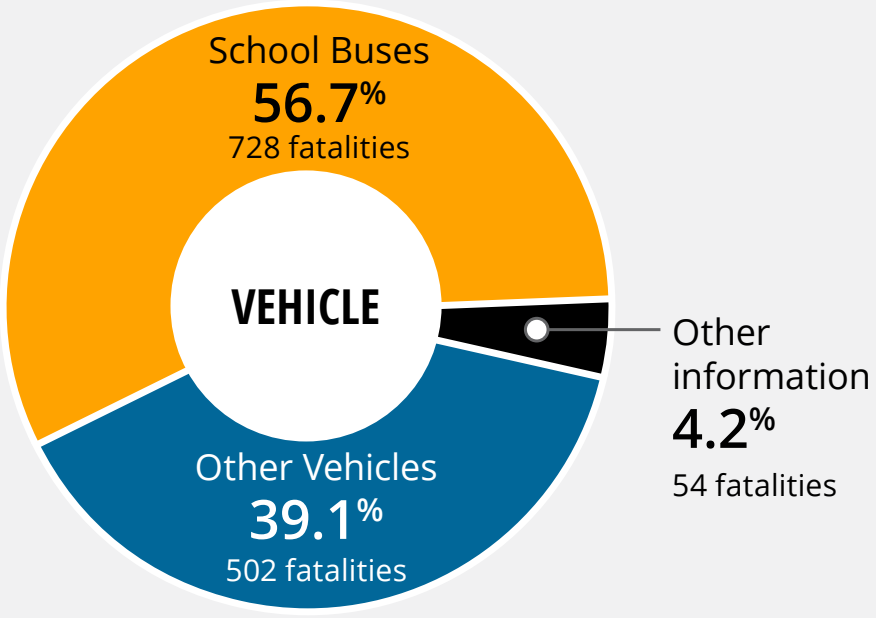


During the past 56 years, the largest percentage of fatalities, 73 percent (937 fatalities), occurred to students 9 years of age and younger.

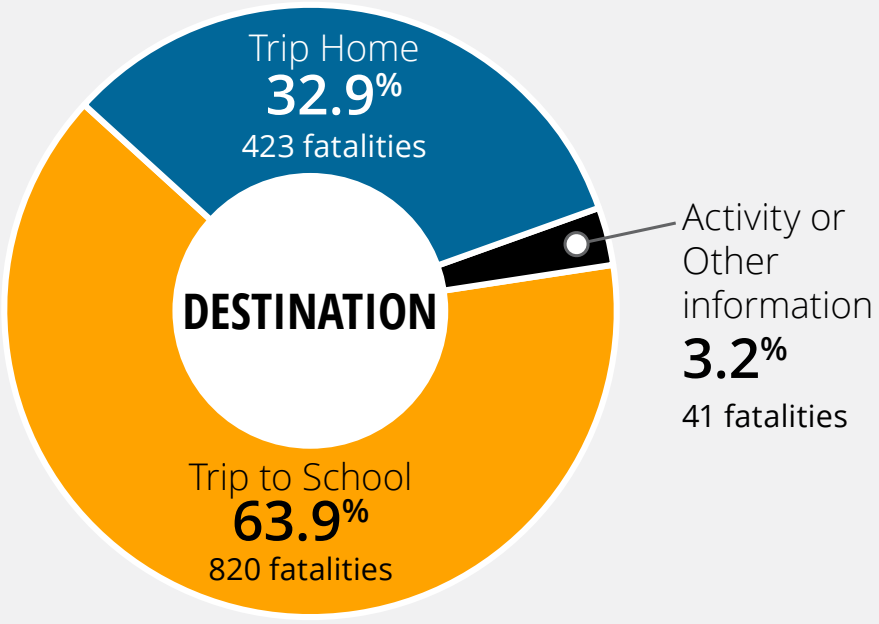


PHOTO CREDIT: Sarah, Evelyn, Owen, Landon and Duane - Shawnee Heights USD 450

School Buses vs. Other Vehicles



Destination



Total student fatalities: 1,284

Kansas State Board of Education

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Vision

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

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A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

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District 9

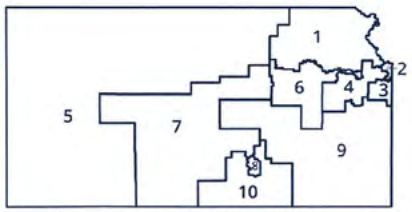


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District 10



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Kansas divided into the ten State Board of Education districts.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 27, 2026

For more information, contact:

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Kansans CAN

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