



American School Bus Council: 2009 Parent Survey

To uncover parents' perspectives on the role the yellow school bus plays in students' lives and the nation's education system, the American School Bus Council conducted a nationwide survey of parents with school age children.

Parents value the yellow school bus and the guaranteed, daily transportation it provides half of the nation's 52 million students.

- More than nine out of ten (93 percent) parents believe the yellow school bus contributes to the nation's education system by providing guaranteed transportation to and from school for millions of students.
- Nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of parents say that without yellow school bus service, it's very likely that a large numbers of students would be absent more often.

Parents believe the yellow school bus enables academic achievement and, without it, student performance may decline.

- More than nine out of ten (91 percent) parents agree that the yellow school bus is an important factor in making student achievement possible.
- Additionally, 76 percent of parents believe if bus service ceased, the performance of millions of school children would probably decline.

Parents are split between the yellow school bus and adult drivers when it comes to the safest way for children to get to and from school.

- Forty four percent of parents identify the yellow school bus as the safest way for children to get to school. A car driven by an adult driver - by the parent themselves or another adult - was cited as the safest way for children to get to school by 49 percent of parents.
- These results are despite the fact that

Parents believe the guaranteed transportation and environmental benefits provided by the yellow school are the two most important reasons to choose the school bus. Parents were asked to choose from a list of true statements about the school bus.

- More than nine out of ten (93 percent) parents selected: *the yellow school bus provides children with guaranteed transportation to and from school daily.*
- Just under 90 percent (88 percent) of parents selected: *it is estimated that the nation's yellow school bus service eliminates the need for 17.2 million cars each morning and 2.3 billion gallons of fuel annually.*
- Additionally, 83 percent of parents selected: *it is estimated that the yellow school bus saves the average parent \$83 annually per child if they are transported by the school bus.*
- More than three quarters (78 percent) of parents selected: *according to the National Academy of Sciences, a child is 13 times safer in a school bus than the average of other ways to get to and from school.*

Methodology: *The American School Bus Council survey, conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation July 9-20, 2009, reached a random sample of 600 parents of children ages 6-17. The parents were identified from a larger random sample of 3,000 American adults, using Opinion Research Corporation's Caravan omnibus service. The margin of error for the sample of parents is plus or minus 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.*