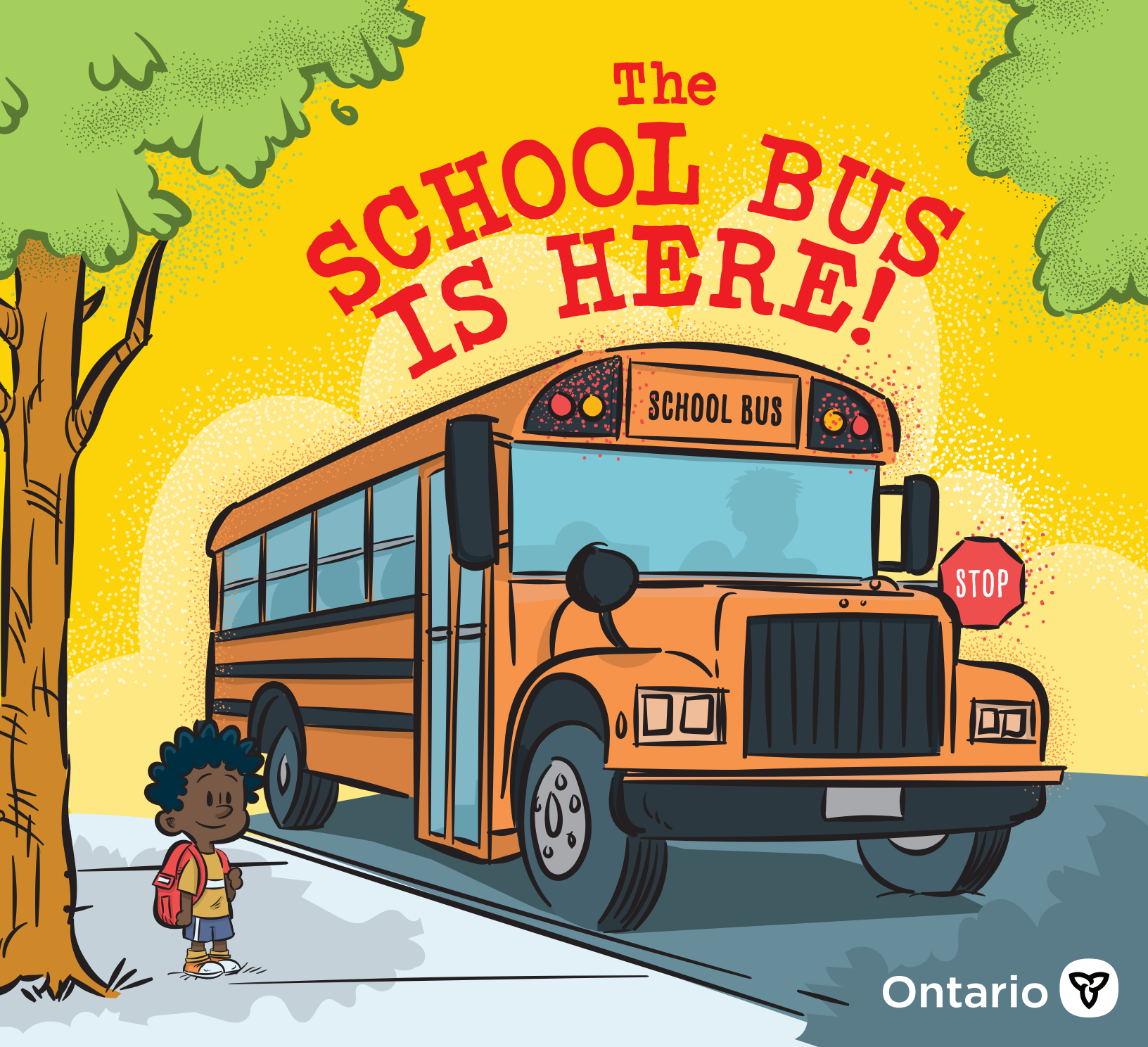


# The SCHOOL BUS IS HERE!





School bus safety doesn't happen by accident.

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The

**SCHOOL BUS  
IS HERE!**

My name is Max and today I start  
Grade 1! I get to ride the school bus  
because I'm a big kid now.

I've never ridden the school bus before.  
It feels like there are butterflies in my  
tummy.

"Will the bus be loud?" I wonder.

"How will I know where to sit?"



"When we get to the bus stop, we will wait on the sidewalk and outside the danger zone," Grandma says.

Grandma explains that the danger zone is anywhere around the bus where the driver can't see me.



The yellow school bus turns the corner and arrives at the bus stop. Its big red lights flash. Cars on both sides of the street stop, just for me.



“That means it’s safe to get on,” Grandma says.

I make sure the bus driver can see me, then take a deep breath and walk toward the bus.



"Good morning!" says the bus driver, Mr. Choi.

"Good morning," I reply. I hold the handrail as I walk up the stairs onto the bus.



I walk calmly down the aisle. The other kids  
all say hi, and I say hi back. We keep our  
voices low.

Maybe this won't be scary after all.

Grandma made sure I would remember the rules: stay in my seat, face forward, keep my backpack on my lap, use my indoor voice and always listen to the bus driver.

.....





Mr. Choi stops at school.

"Remember to walk, don't run,"  
he says. "And get off the bus one  
at a time."

I stand in line and wait for my  
turn. When Mr. Choi says it's  
okay, I step off the bus and walk  
straight to my school.





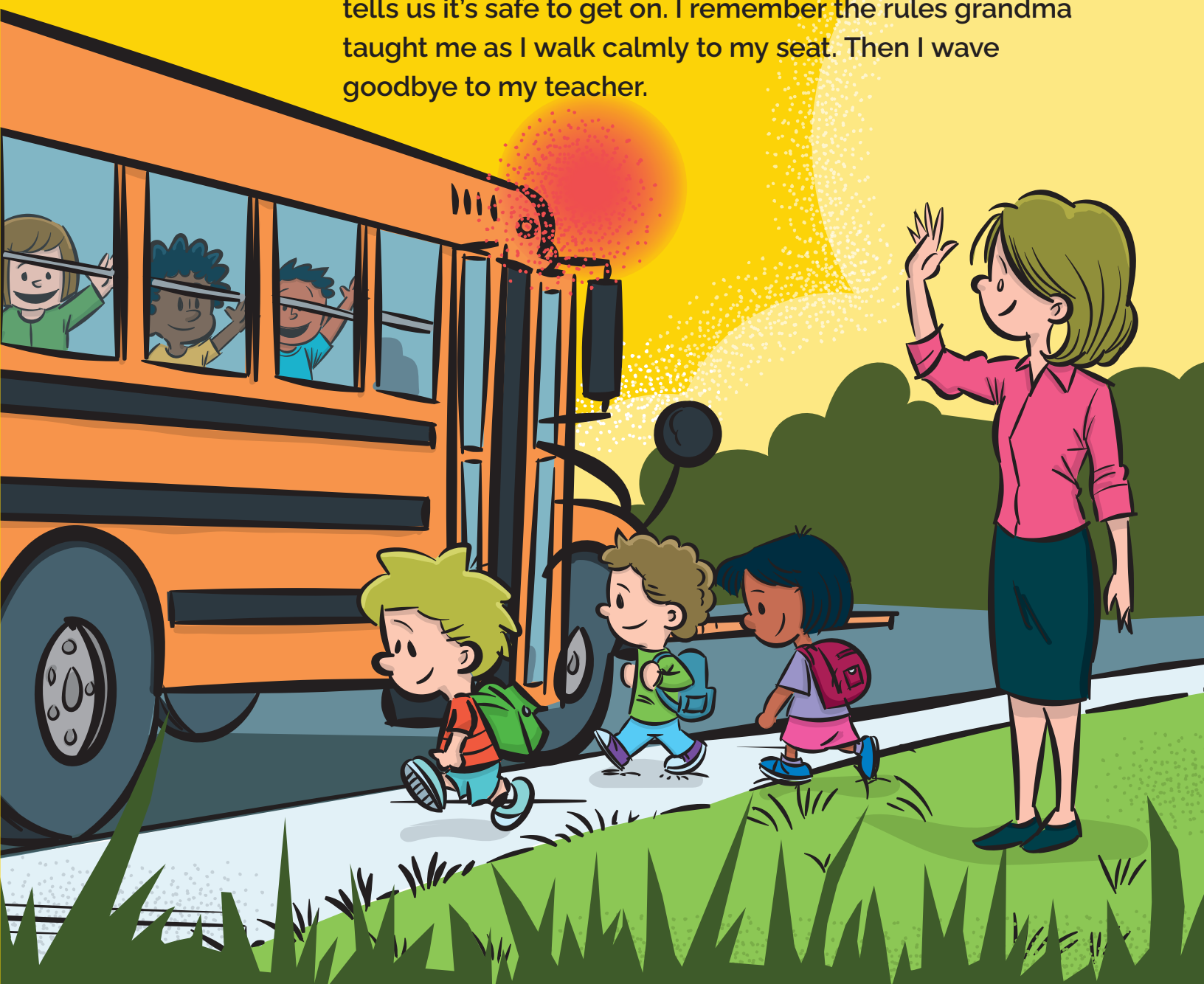


School is so much fun! I make a new friend named Amira. She tells the best jokes. We talk about our favourite animals and what we brought for lunch. It feels nice to have a friend.

After school, I am excited to go back home. I line up with my friends to get on the school bus.



The bus drives in and stops. Mr. Choi opens the door and tells us it's safe to get on. I remember the rules grandma taught me as I walk calmly to my seat. Then I wave goodbye to my teacher.



Amira and I sit together on the ride home. We're having lots of fun talking, but we stay in our seats and don't act silly. The window is open and there is a nice breeze. We keep our hands inside the bus at all times.



Finally, the bus stops near my house. I see my dad and baby brother waiting for me at the bus stop.

I wait until Mr. Choi says it's safe and then I get off the bus.

I take 10 giant steps away from the bus so I'm out of the danger zone. Then I wave goodbye to Mr. Choi and all my new friends.



Dad gives me a big hug.  
"How was it?" he asks.  
"It was the best!" I tell him.  
"I rode the bus all by myself  
like a big kid."

Dad laughs and says, "You  
sure did."

I can't wait to do it again  
tomorrow.







Riding a school bus can be a big adventure if everyone follows the rules and rides safely. So be like Max and you'll have a great ride!

# **School bus safety in Ontario: A quick guide for families**

## **Riding the school bus can be an exciting part of your child's day**

This guide shares simple safety tips to help families feel confident about school bus routines.

For more information, please visit: [ontario.ca/SchoolBusSafety](https://ontario.ca/SchoolBusSafety)

## **What should my child do at the bus stop?**

Your child should arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early and wait in a safe spot away from the road. They should only approach the bus when:

- it has come to a full stop
- the stop arm is out and red lights are flashing
- all traffic has stopped

## **What should my child do on the bus?**

Your child should quickly find a seat and sit facing forward. They should keep the aisle clear and their arms and head inside the bus at all times.

They should listen to the bus driver and avoid loud noises or distractions during the ride.



## How does my child safely get off the bus?

When the bus stops, your child should exit in single file without pushing or running. If they need to cross the road, they should:

- take 10 big steps away from the bus so the driver can see them clearly
- wait for the driver's signal
- walk in front of the bus (never behind)
- look all ways before crossing

If something is dropped near the bus, children should never pick it up themselves. They should ask the driver or another adult for help.

## Helping your child feel ready

- Practice walking safely to the bus stop together.
- Talk about the steps to take when getting on or off the bus.
- Help your child remember their bus number and stop location.
- Remind your child to speak up if they ever feel unsure or unsafe.

## What families and drivers need to know

It's against the law to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is out.

- On roads **without a median**, drivers in **both directions** must stop.
- On roads **with a median**, only vehicles behind the bus must stop.

Penalties can include fines, demerit points and even jail time.

## **Working together to keep kids safe**

Ontario's school bus rules are designed to keep children safe — every ride, every day. By working together, families, drivers and schools help make sure every student gets to and from school safely.



## Safe travels every day!

Ride along with Max and discover how every trip to and from school can be safe and fun. From waiting at the stop to finding the perfect seat, this story helps kids feel confident about bus routines. Whether it's the first day of school or just another morning, it's always a good day for a safe bus ride.

For more information about riding the school bus in Ontario, please visit **[ontario.ca/SchoolBusSafety](https://ontario.ca/SchoolBusSafety)**



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