

SECTION IV: OPERATIONS

K. INTERSTATE DRIVING

Interstate driving is particularly dangerous due to the high rate of speed involved, the long stopping distances required, and the top-heavy nature of school buses. For this reason, it is important that school buses use the right lane except for passing and exits to the left.

Drivers must remember to maintain a "cushion of safety" around the bus and to allow for a four (4) second following distance when driving less than 40 MPH. When driving over 40 MPH, add an additional one (1) second of following distance for each additional increase of 10 MPH. (For example, a bus traveling 55 MPH would use a six second following distance.) A greater following distance is required at night or when driving conditions are less than "ideal."

Remember to practice the "4-R's":

- Read the road ahead;
- Drive to the right;
- Reduce speed;
- Resort to the right shoulder.

The maximum Louisiana speed limit for school buses on interstate highways is 55 MPH and must be observed for all trips.

ⁱ Revised Date July 1, 2008.