Rules for Driving
Near a School Bus in WA State

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HARBORVIEW
Injury Prevention & Research Center
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
RCW 46.37.190

AS SPECIFIED IN THIS RULE:

The driver of a vehicle, upon overtaking or meeting from either direction any school bus which has stopped on the roadway for purpose of receiving or discharging school children, shall STOP the vehicle before reaching the school bus when there is a visual signal.

Driver shall NOT proceed until the school bus resumes motion or its visual signals are no longer activated.
RCW 46.37.190

AS SPECIFIED IN THIS RULE:

The driver of a school bus shall actuate visual signals ONLY when the school bus is stopped on the roadway for purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

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As specified in this rule:

The driver of a vehicle, upon a highway divided into separate roadways, need NOT stop upon meeting a school bus which is proceeding in opposite direction and is stopped for purpose of receiving or discharging school children.

The driver of a vehicle, upon a highway with three or more marked traffic lanes, need NOT stop upon meeting a school bus which is proceeding in opposite direction and is stopped for purpose of receiving or discharging school children.
RCW 46.37.215

AS SPECIFIED IN THIS RULE:

The driver of a school bus may stop completely off the roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children ONLY when they DO NOT have to cross a roadway.

The school bus driver shall actuate the hazard warning lamps BEFORE loading or unloading school children at bus stops.