



Back To School Driving Safety Tips

It is especially important to slow down and watch out for children at the beginning of the school year. Students are excited, and may not pay attention to traffic safety practices. Be aware that ALL drivers are responsible for child safety near school zones or school busses.

- Remember, when you see a school bus, all traffic from both directions **MUST** stop when bus lights are flashing red and STOP signs are extended. Never pass a stopped school bus loading or unloading children - it's the law!
- Divided highways are the only exception to passing a school bus in oncoming lanes if the median is over 5 feet wide or has a raised, impassable divider.
- If you see yellow flashing lights it means the school bus is preparing to stop. This alerts drivers to slow down and be prepared to stop - not speed up to pass the bus quickly. Begin moving again only when the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn and the bus begins to move.
- Be alert for children who might dart into the street without looking because they arrive late at the bus stop. Watch for students playing and gathering near a bus stop. *Slow down and observe posted speed limits in school zones at all times.* Look for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks. Be careful to watch for children walking or biking to school when leaving your garage or backing out of a driveway.
- If you drive children to school, make sure every child is buckled in a child safety seat, a booster seat, or with a lap/shoulder belt that is age, weight and height appropriate. It is safer for all children ages 12 and under to sit in the back seat of your car whenever possible.
- When driving children to school, leave with plenty of time to meet the child's schedule and your own. Accidents often occur because drivers are in a hurry, as they may be late for work or an appointment.

Slow down. Stay alert. Watch out for the children.