



# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

School days bring congestion and school buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, and parents dropping their kids off before work. It is never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.

## IF YOU ARE DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

Schools often have very specific drop-off procedure for the school year. The following apply to all school zones.

- Do not double park, it blocks visibility for other and vehicles
- Do not load or unload children across the street from the school
- Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school

## SHARING THE ROAD WITH YOUNG PEDESTRIANS

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incident are 4 to 7 years old, and they are walking. They are hit by the bus or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe.

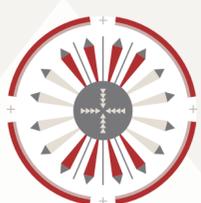
- Do not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians

## SHARING THE ROAD WITH BICYCLISTS

On most roads, bicyclist have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. Children riding bikes can create problems for the driver because they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions. When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist

- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass
- Watch for bike riders in front of you without looking or signaling, children especially tend to do this.
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars
- Check side mirrors before opening your door
- All passengers should wear a seat belt or use an age-and size appropriate child safety seat or booster seat.

Sources: National Safety Council



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