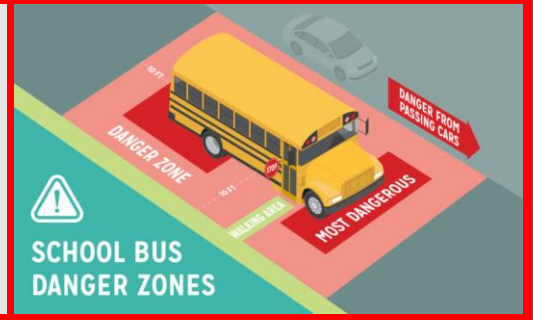


Did You Know:

School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road; they are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in preventing crashes and injuries; and in every state, stop-arm laws exist to protect children from other motorists.



Drivers, Slow Down!

Drivers should be aware that children are out walking or biking to and from school, and slow down, especially in residential areas and school zones. Motorists should know what the yellow and red bus signals mean. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop and motorists should slow down and be prepared to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign indicate the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off.

Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped. Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety. This includes two and four-lane highways. If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping. Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

Back to School Safety Tips

- If your student rides a bus to school, they should plan to get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Students should board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed them to get on. They should only board their bus, never an alternate one.
- All students should stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
- Cross the street at the corner, obey traffic signals and stay in the crosswalk.
- Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- Some students ride their bike to school. They should always wear a helmet and ride on the right, in the same direction as the traffic is going.
- When children are walking to school, they should only cross the street at an intersection, and use a route along which the school has placed crossing guards.

Parents

Parents of younger kids and those headed to school for the first time, should also take a few special steps. Make sure your child has memorized your phone number, address, how to get in touch with you at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 911. Teach children not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know. With many students returning to classes for the first time since the pandemic, AAA said it wants to remind drivers, parents, and students to stay safe and alert in school zones. "The afternoon hours are particularly dangerous for children who are heading home from school. In fact, most child fatalities happen between the afternoon hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., when kids are heading home from school, and they're mixing with drivers who are commuting home from work," says AAA.



KEY LEADING MEASURES FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

- Know the emergency procedures that have been established by your child's school
- Pay attention on the roads and avoid distractions
- Slow down and follow the speed limit
- Stop and yield to school buses
- Teach your children to be safe and observant between the house and the school

If the lights are flashing, do not try passing!