

Safety Bulletin

Stay Safe This Back-to-School Season. Use These Dos and Don'ts.

Soon, you'll be seeing lots of yellow. Schools nationwide will start the 2018-19 school year shortly, and that means you'll be sharing the road with those big, yellow school buses.

The American School Bus Council estimates that about 480,000 buses carry 25 million children to and from school each day. That means your normal routes will be more congested, not just with buses, but with more cars, bicycles and pedestrians.



Heads-up driving at this time of year isn't just a must – it's a potential lifesaver. Get prepared by reviewing this list of dos and don'ts, and keep our children (and our roads) safe.

Do obey the speed limit in school zones (typically it's 25 mph or under).

Don't think schools are the only danger. Also slow down near playgrounds, parks and other places where children might play.

Do allow extra following distance when behind a school bus. This will give you more time to stop once a school bus begins flashing its yellow lights.

Don't pass a school bus if the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. It's illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

Do respect the 10-foot perimeter around the school bus. It's the most dangerous area for children. Stop far enough back so children can safely enter and exit the bus.

Don't block crosswalks at intersections or in front of a school. Forcing children to walk around you could put them into the path of moving traffic.

Do stop for crossing guards or police officers who are helping children cross the street safely. Treat their presence as an automatic stop sign.

Don't assume you know how kids will react. Children on foot or bike are unpredictable and may ignore potential dangers, like crossing a street from behind a parked car or SUV.

Do yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way.

Do pay attention to the time of day. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the most dangerous time for school-age pedestrians is between 6-7 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. – the hours right before and after school.

Don't drive distracted. Never use a hand-held smartphone while driving, and don't use a hands-free phone in school zones or other busy areas.



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