



# Back to School Means Sharing the Road

School days bring excited kids and congestion: It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.



## Kids Walking

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing walkers 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 kids crossing the crosswalk or intersection.
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for kids in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas.
- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a person walking, even if you have the right of way.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for people walking.
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking people walking wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way.

## School Buses

**If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.**

**It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload kids.**

- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload kids.
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for kids; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert; kids often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks.

## Kids Riding Their Bicycles



- When passing a person bicycling, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your vehicle and them.
- When turning left and a person bicycling is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for them to pass.
- If you're turning right and a person bicycling is approaching from behind on the right, let them go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals.
- Watch for bicycle riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling; kids especially have a tendency to do this.
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods.
- Watch for bicycles coming from driveways or behind parked cars.
- Check side mirrors before opening your door.