



# DRIVING TIPS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL COMMUTERS



When backing out of a driveway, be conscious of the fact that many young students are making their way to school or the bus stop on foot.



Remember that all cell phone use should be put on hold, especially when in a school zone.

Without proper licensing, never use a handicap or emergency vehicle lane to drop or pick up children from school.



At all times, regardless of how open a road may be, drive slowly.



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When driving both before and after school, pay attention for children walking to class or the bus stop.

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When driving in a school zone, never pass other vehicles, change lanes or make U-turns.



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When crossing guards are visible, drive extra cautiously, seeing as how children are crossing busy streets.



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Always assume young children will dart out into the street without looking both ways.



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# Sharing the road with 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 children.

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're 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:

- 🚌 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 children
- 🚌 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 children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- 🚌 Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

- 🚌 Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn
- 🚌 In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians 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 for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- 🚌 Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- 🚌 Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way

