



## Eye on Safety

### Back-to-School Safety Tips for Drivers

August is Back-to-School Safety Month. As students head back to school, it's important for drivers to refocus on road safety, especially around school zones, crosswalks, and residential neighborhoods. When you're behind the wheel, your attention and care can help prevent accidents and keep children safe.

#### Watch for School Zones

- **Slow down:** Obey posted speed limits in school zones are typically reduced during pick-up and drop-off hours.
- **Stay alert:** Children can be unpredictable, especially near schools. Avoid distractions such as texting or eating while driving.
- **Expect congestion:** Plan for extra travel time during morning and afternoon hours.

#### Be Cautious at Crosswalks

- **Always yield** to pedestrians, especially in crosswalks and near intersections.
- **Never block** a crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to turn.
- **Make eye contact** with children and crossing guards to ensure you're seen.

#### Obey School Bus Laws

- **Never pass a school bus** that is stopped to load or unload children.
- **Stop from both directions** when on a two-lane road with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign.
- **Be extra cautious:** Children may cross the street unexpectedly.

#### Eliminate Distractions

- **Put down your phone:** Use hands-free devices if you must take a call.
- **Keep music and conversations at a reasonable level** so you can hear sirens, crossing guards, or children nearby.

#### Final Thoughts

Back to school season is a reminder that roads are shared spaces — especially with children. With just a few extra precautions, drivers can help ensure a safe and smooth transition into the new school year.

Drive smart. Drive safe. Our kids are counting on it