

# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

## Back to School Safety Tips for Your School-Age Children

Risk Management wants to remind parents and drivers alike of the importance of safety once school is back in session. Many of school-age children locally soon will begin and end their days with a trip to and from school by bus, auto, biking, or walking. To help ensure their safe departure and arrival, we have provided some safety tips to go over with your children as they get ready for the first day of school.

### First Day of School

County	Date
<a href="#">Dougherty</a>	August 5, 2013
<a href="#">Lee</a>	August 9, 2013
<a href="#">Mitchell</a>	August 19, 2013
<a href="#">Terrell</a>	July 29, 2013
<a href="#">Worth</a>	July 29, 2013

### Traveling by bus?

- Make sure your kids get to the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Stand away from the curb and line up away from the street when the bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens and the driver says it is okay to enter the bus.
- Walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least 10 feet ahead of the bus before you cross.
- Ensure the driver can see you if you have to cross the street in front of the bus.
- Be careful that loose clothing don't get caught while entering and exiting the bus.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Do not move around on the bus while in motion.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing.
- Board and exit the bus at locations that provide safe access.



### Traveling by Auto?

- Ensure all passengers wear appropriate restraint devices.
- Do not text or talk on your cell phone while driving.
- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Remain alert for school zones that have a reduced speed limit at designated times.
- Stop for school buses stopping to load or unload children.
- Keep an eye out for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert for children playing and gathering near bus stops and for those who may dart into the street.
- Watch for children walking or biking to school when backing out of a driveway.
- Watch for children when driving in neighborhoods or school zones.



### Riding bike?

- Wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as the traffic.
- Wear brightly colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Obey traffic lights and stop signs.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Know the "rules of the road."



<http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm>

### Walking to school?

- Ensure your child's route to school is a safe with well-trained adult crossing guards.
- Ensure your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- Consider wearing brightly colored clothing which will make your child more visible to drivers.
- Consider starting a "walking school bus," escorted by an adult in areas with high traffic.



Visit <http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/bts.htm> for more information on Back to School Safety



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