

MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

SLOW DOWN: BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS SHARING THE ROAD

Risk Management wants to remind parents and drivers alike the importance of slowing down once school is back in session. Drivers should slow down and pay attention and remember that you must share the road with young pedestrians, buses and bicyclists during school time. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe by:

Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians

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.

- ❖ Don't block the crosswalk when required to stop forcing pedestrians to go around you
- ❖ Yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection in a school zone
- ❖ Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- ❖ Look out for children in school zones (playgrounds, parks, residential areas, etc.)
- ❖ Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- ❖ Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- ❖ Use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians no matter who has the right of way



| County | First Day |
|-----------|----------------|
| Dougherty | August 1, 2019 |
| Worth | August 1, 2019 |
| Tift | August 5, 2019 |
| Lee | August 7, 2019 |
| Colquitt | August 5, 2019 |
| Mitchell | August 6, 2019 |
| Sumter | August 5, 2019 |

Sharing the Road with School Buses

- ❖ Allow a greater distance when following behind a bus than if you were driving behind a car.
- ❖ Never pass a bus from behind or from either direction if you're on an undivided road while children are loading and unloading.
- ❖ Stop for the bus if the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended
- ❖ Stop far enough back to allow children space to safely enter and exit the bus
- ❖ Be alert for children loading and unloading on the bus



Sharing the Road with Bicyclists

Children riding bikes create special problems for drivers because usually they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions.

- ❖ Leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist when passing a bicyclist
- ❖ Wait for the rider to pass when turning left as bicyclist approach from ahead
- ❖ Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling
- ❖ Be extra vigilant for bicyclist in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- ❖ Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars

Please visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/seasonal-safety/back-to-school/> for additional information about back to school safety.



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