

Emergency Preparedness – Back to School Safety

August 2022



The month of August brings summer vacations to an end, and the back-to-school season begins. There are many steps involved in preparing your family for back to school. As well as adjusting your commute to work for the additional traffic and school destination stops.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School bus transportation is safe. In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even so, last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus.

Stay away from the bus until it comes to a **complete stop** and the driver signals you to enter.

Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's ok to approach.

Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.

Have a safe place to wait for your bus, **away from traffic and the street.**

Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do.

When being dropped off, **exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away** from the bus.

Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.

Protect yourself and watch out!

School Bus Safety

If your student rides a bus to school, plan to talk to your student about the importance of following the bus rules and any spaced seating rules that may apply.

Plan on arriving to the bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive.

Students should only board the bus once it has come to a complete stop and the bus driver has instructed the students to get on.

Students should stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.

Always cross the street at the corner, obeying traffic.

Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Driving to School

If your student rides in a car to get to school, everyone should always wear a seat belt.

Younger children should use car seats or booster seats until the lap-shoulder belt fits properly.

All children under the age of 13 must ride in the back seat.

If a teenager is going to drive to school, check with your state's guidelines on age restrictions for under the age of eighteen drivers. For more information on provisional licensing please go to [California DMV Provisional Licensing Information](#).

All drivers should not use their cellphones to text or make calls and avoid other distractions such as eating and drinking while driving.



Riding a Bike or Walking to School

Students who ride their bike to school, should always wear a helmet and ride on the right side of the road, traveling the same direction as the traffic.

Students who walk to school, should only cross at the intersection, and use a route which the schools have placed crossing guards. Always use crosswalks.

Parents should walk young children to school, especially when your student is attending new schools, to ensure they know how to get there safely. Arrange for the kids to walk to school with a friend or classmate.

