

# School Zone Safety for Parents and Kids

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FOR MOTORISTS

-  Slow down in or near school or residential areas, and be sure to come to a complete stop at all intersections.
-  Look for clues such as School Safety Patrol members, crossing guards, bicycles and playgrounds which indicate children could be in the area.
-  Scan between parked cars and other objects for signs that children could dart into the road.
-  Always stop for school buses that are loading and unloading students. It's the law.
-  Leave a little early so you are not rushed as you travel to work and through school zones.
-  Drive with your headlights on - even during the day - so children and other drivers can see you.



## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY FOR RIDERS

-  Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street.

-  Emphasize to your child to check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing the street.
-  Remind your children to stay seated on the bus at all times and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding.
-  When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.
-  Tell your child to remain in clear view of the bus driver, do not bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.
-  If your child's school bus has lap/shoulder seat belts, make sure your child uses one at all times when in the bus.
-  Children should always board and exit the bus at locations that provide safe access to the bus or to the school building.

## BIKE RIDERS

-  If your child bikes to school, make sure he wears a helmet that meets one of the safety standards no matter how short or long the ride. Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.



-  If your child rides a scooter to school, make sure she wears sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads. Children under age 12 should not ride motorized scooters, according to recent recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
-  Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
-  Use appropriate hand signals.
-  Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
-  Wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility.
-  Know the "rules of the road."

Always wear  
  
your seat belt

## WALKERS



## WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Most young children are injured near their home or on their own street.
- Most crashes involving your children occur between 3p.m. and 6p.m.
- Most crashes involving your children occur in fair and warm weather.
- Twice as many boys are injured as girls.

### How can these tragedies be prevented?

- Supervise young children at all times
- Explain to your child the safe way you cross the street.
  - Stop at the curb.
  - Look left-right-left for traffic in all directions.
  - Cross when it is clear.
  - Keep looking for vehicles as you cross.
- Until children are 10 or 11 years old, they don't have the skills to handle traffic.
- Children have difficulty judging a car's speed and distance, and they often think that if they can see the driver, the driver can see them.

- ▲ Make sure your child's walk to a school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
- ▲ If you have to walk on the road, walk facing traffic so you can see what's coming.
- ▲ Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- ▲ If your child is young or is walking to new school, walk with them the first week to make sure they know the route and can do it safely.
- ▲ Bright colored clothing will make your child more visible to drivers.
- ▲ In neighborhoods with higher levels of traffic, consider starting a "walking school bus," in which an adult accompanies a group of neighborhood children walking to school.



## Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office

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Back to School  
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