



# TRANSPORTATION Services

## School's In

**ALERT= SAFETY**

*School is now in session.*

School zones may present traffic congestion in the early morning and mid-afternoon. Be prepared for delays as you travel in these areas. A driver should allow extra time or consider using alternate routes during the school year.

The safety of our school children depend upon drivers slowing to designated school zones when children are present and stopping when a school bus is loading.

**Yellow flashing lights** indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Be prepared to stop.

**Red flashing lights** and extended arms indicate that the bus is stopped, and that children are entering or exiting the bus. **STOP!**

**Drivers need to take special precautions when traveling in and around school zones.**

- Obey all school zone speed limits. Be aware of reduced school bus speeds on highways.
- Watch for warning signs indicating a school crossing. Reduce your speed as soon as you see the warning, and use extreme caution as you pass through a school zone.
- Crossing guards are there to help children cross the street safely; obey the crossing guard signals. Check the areas on both sides of the crossing zone to make sure no children are approaching.
- Be on the lookout for children gathering on the side of roadways. School bus stops may be located anywhere. Stop when a school bus is loading or unloading.
- Maintain a safe following distance behind a bus. School buses make frequent stops. When coming from behind the bus, stop at least 65 feet away. When approaching the bus from the opposite direction, stop at a safe distance.

- Do not start moving until the red lights have stopped flashing, the STOP arm folds away and the bus begins to move.
- Never pass a stopped school bus.
- Allow time for delays.
- Watch for children.
- Focus ahead.
- Pay attention to vehicles parked on the roadside.

For drivers to expect the unexpected is the best safeguard against accidents in school zones and bus loading and unloading areas.

**Remember: Traffic tends to pile up in front of schools, and there are always children crossing the streets.**

### **Security Tips:**

Check your seals during every pre-trip and post trip. Physically check the seal to be sure it is still intact. Use your own lock in addition to the seal.

When away from the truck use the anti-theft devices. All trucks are required to have two devices; one mechanical and one electric.

Try to park near the front of the truck stop instead of the back. Make sure you have permission to park at a location. Don't assume it will be okay. Property owners will have your truck towed. Try and park at locations with video surveillance.

Perform a proper pre-plan so that you don't wait until the last minute to find a safe location for your break.