

Press Release

August 8, 2019

DeKalb Police Announce Enforcement Detail on School Bus Stop-Arm Violations

The DeKalb Police Department would like to remind the community that school will be back in session starting next week. Classes begin on Thursday, August 15th for the DeKalb School District. DeKalb Police Officers will focus on enforcing violations by vehicles that are approaching, overtaking, and passing stopped school buses. Officers will be providing extra patrols to school zones and bus stops. Officers will be issuing citations to violators. Please follow all traffic laws and be extra diligent to avoid a preventable accident. The safety of our community's children is a priority of the DeKalb Police Department.

Back to School Safety Reminders

The DeKalb Police Department would also like to provide some safety reminders. Back to school means that we will once again be sharing the road with pedestrians, bicyclists, and buses. School days bring more traffic congestion.

Sharing the Road with School Buses:

- Allow for greater distances than if you are driving behind a car.
- It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. If the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop. All traffic must stop in undivided roadways (2 lane roadways) and all traffic in the same direction must stop in divided roadways (4 lane roads or highways).
- Stop far enough back to allow children to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert; children are often unpredictable and may ignore hazards.

Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians:

- Most of the children that lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by a bus or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.
- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to turn. This can force pedestrians to go around your vehicle and into the path of moving traffic.
- Always stop for a crossing guard holding a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas. Slow down!
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.

Sharing the Road with Bicyclists:

- On most roads, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as most vehicles.

- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist.
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass.
- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first. Always use your turn signal.
- Watch for bike riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling, especially children who tend to use less caution.
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods.
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways and behind parked cars.
- Check side mirrors before opening your doors.

If You're Dropping Off:

- Use specific school drop off locations.
- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles.
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school or designated drop off location.

Source: National Safety Council

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