

Best Practices for Safe Drop Off/Pick Up

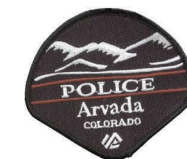
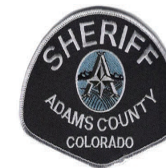
School Zone Facts

- Accident statistics show that roughly 26 kids die every year in school bus accidents, are hurt while getting off the bus or hurt as passengers.
- **Most young children are injured near their home or on their own street.**
- **Most crashes involving young children occur between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.**
- **Most crashes involving young children occur in fair and warm weather.**
- **Twice as many young boys are injured as young girls**

- **Use only designated drop off locations** – each school has a designated location to drop off and pick up kids; drivers should use only that location.
- **Do not park across the street from the drop location** – having kids crossing the streets mid-block is dangerous, especially with all the other cars coming in to drop off kids, and it's unfair to nearby neighbors who may already be experiencing high levels of traffic.
- **Do not use the school's bus loading zone** – this zone is for school buses only, and dropping kids off at this location is not only dangerous, it also slows down the flow of all the other cars, and any buses coming in.
- **Allow extra time** – everyone is very busy, but that's no excuse to put our kids' safety at risk – leave a few minutes early to allow ample time for drop off and pick up. Just a few minutes can make a great difference, and help to make the traffic circulation around schools more efficient for everyone.
- **Be courteous and respectful of neighbors** – you can reduce the traffic and parking impact on residents living near a school drop off location by following all procedures, and by being sure to never park in front of driveways. Treat these neighbors in the way you'd like to be treated if you lived across the street from a school!
- **Get involved** – become a school volunteer and help to distribute drop off/pick up information, promote appropriate procedures among motorists, or monitor the traffic flow during drop off and pick up. Ask your school how best to get involved.
- **Have the kids walk to and from school** – if feasible, this is a great way to help kids get fresh air and exercise, and stay healthy – and it will significantly reduce the number of cars around the school and neighborhood. The little ones should be accompanied on their walk. Biking to school is also a great alternative.



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY



Prepared By:
Colorado State Patrol, Troop 1D

Rev: 02/11



SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

When walking to school:

- **Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections whenever possible.**
- **Always stop at the curb or the edge of the road and look left, then right, and then left again before crossing. Continue looking in this manner until you are able to cross safely.**
- **With your parents, choose the quickest and safest route with the fewest street crossings.**
- **Use intersections with crossing guards when possible.**
- **If vision is blocked by a parked car or other obstacle, pedestrians should move out to where drivers can see them and they can see other vehicles -- then stop, and look left-right-left again.**
- **Obey and follow all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard.**
- **Never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.**
- **Walk your bike through intersections.**
- **Walk with a buddy.**
- **Wear reflective material...it makes you more visible to street traffic.**



Tragedies occur when drivers and pedestrians don't know or follow the rules of the road. Across the nation more than 230 million children begin and end the day on a school bus, so with buses and children crowding the streets, reviewing the "rules of the road" from the Colorado State Patrol and local safety partners can help save lives.

Rules You Need to Know

When driving near school buses, remember:

- It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus while its lights are flashing and its stop arm is extended.
- On undivided roadways, with no physical barrier or median, vehicles must stop on both sides of the roadway.
- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and children are getting on or off. Motorists approaching from either direction must wait until the red lights stop flashing before proceeding.



School Bus Laws

- **If a school bus has stopped and is operating the alternately flashing red lights, all drivers meeting, or overtaking the school bus shall stop at least 20 feet from the school bus.**
- **Motorists may not proceed until the school bus either turns off the flashing red lights or resumes motion. This law does not apply to motorists on a divided highway, if the school bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway from the motorist. A divided highway means a highway that is divided into two or more roadways by an intervening space or barrier, such as a concrete or grassy median.**

Please share these tips with your children if he or she is walking to school or taking the school bus.