



TRAVEL TIPS Around Schools

Keeping Ohio Children Safe

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) reminds travelers near schools that they can play an important role in enhancing safety for students walking and bicycling by following safe driving practices.

Parents and caregivers can also adopt safe drop-off and pick-up procedures to help keep everyone safe out the door.

Between 2008-2010, there were more than 11,000 crashes near Ohio K-8 schools resulting in 244 fatalities. Nearly 1 in 4 of these involved school children ages 5-14.

Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

ODOT is launching a statewide, comprehensive Safe Routes to School campaign to educate students, school officials, parents and all roadway users on ways to stay alert and aware when traveling in school zones.





Traveling Safely Around Schools

1. **Slow down** and follow all traffic laws and speed limits.
2. **Follow** local school drop-off and pick-up procedures.
3. **Avoid double parking** to let children out of the car – it blocks visibility.
4. **Stop before reaching crosswalks** so they remain clear for pedestrians and bicyclists.
5. **Be extra cautious in bad weather.** Remember that rain and fog reduce visibility for everyone.
6. **Avoid loading or unloading children** across the street from school. It could cause them to cross busy streets unnecessarily – often mid-block rather than at a crosswalk.
7. **Prepare to stop for a moving or stopped school bus** when overhead yellow lights are flashing.
8. **Stop for a school bus with its red overhead lights flashing.** Drivers must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion and the red lights stop flashing, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.
9. **Watch for children walking or bicycling** (both on the road and the sidewalk) in areas near a school and when backing out of the driveway or garage.
10. **Watch for children playing and gathering** near bus stops. They may dart into the street without looking for traffic.