



MaineDOT Flash Facts

Topic: Back to School

With many of Maine's children heading back to school in the next week or two, it is important to remind ourselves about school traffic safety.

Maine school busses carry 170,000 students an estimated 32 million miles each year. Everyone has a role in keeping roads safe for school busses. Here are a few school related safety tips from the MaineDOT:

- Slow down in School Zones and keep an eye out for children
- Fully stop your vehicle when school bus lights are flashing red
- Use caution in any area where children may be present, such as at pedestrian crossings; near playgrounds or parks; and in residential areas

Many of Maine's children are heading back to school during the next couple of weeks, so it is important to remember school traffic safety. Nationwide - children aged 5-15 make up nearly 30% of pedestrian fatalities. Parents, here are a few school related safety tips from the MaineDOT:

- Find the safest route to school with your child
- Make sure your children understand the meaning of traffic signs, signals and crosswalks
- Teach children to look left-right-and left again before crossing
- Do not stop or park on crosswalks
- Do not double-park
- When parking, do not block visibility of children or motorists
- Leave yourself enough time for the drive so you do not feel rushed on the road
- Follow the school's rules about loading and unloading passengers
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is properly buckled up
- Use the curb side car door when dropping kids off



Each Year, about 800 school-aged children are killed in motor-vehicle crashes nationwide during normal school travel hours.

We all have a role to play in keeping young people safe as schools re-open. Every motorist needs to be looking out for children and parents need to help kids know how to avoid danger. Some tips for our kids from MaineDOT (adults need to remember these too!):

- Cross only at intersections
- Cross only when the pedestrian “WALK” sign is lit
- If no pedestrian sign is present, cross with the green light, but make sure ALL traffic is stopped and knows you want to cross before you proceed

When crossing the street:

- Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they know you are there
- Stop at the curb or before the edge of the road and get a clear view looking left-right-then left again
- Do not cross between vehicles
- As you cross, keep looking for vehicles
- Wear reflective clothing and avoid dark clothing
- A parked car that is running or has a driver in it may be moving soon, so make sure they know you are crossing
- Walk, do not run

School bus safety reminders:

- When the school bus arrives, stay at least 6 feet away from the curb
- If crossing in front of the bus, make sure you can see the driver and they can see you
- Never walk behind a bus
- If you drop something near a bus, FIRST tell the bus driver. (Never pick it up first, because the driver may not see you)

Be a Road Model throughout the school year.