



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BEHIND THE STAR

SHERIFF MALCUM J. "JAMIE" PATTON



## SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

With summer quickly coming to an end, it's time to start thinking about kids returning to school. "For several months now, drivers have been traveling the roads and passing schools without the thought of yellow flashing lights or school buses. But now it's time to start thinking about school zones, kids walking, and buses picking up and dropping off kids," says Sheriff Patton.

It's our goal to prevent injuries and deaths of our children in Union County. Here are a few driving tips to help keep kids safe:

1. Slow down before you enter the school zone.
2. Wait to accelerate until you leave the school zone. Kids are still walking to and from school and could be outside the school zone.
3. Always stop for crossing guards holding a Stop Sign. Sometimes crossing guards can be students. If they signal for you to stop, do not get upset and honk your horn or try to scare them.
4. Never pass a vehicle that is stopped in a school zone.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) launched a national study in 2019 with a total of 131,345 school bus drivers in 39 states participating. The one-day tally for school bus violations was 95,494. Unfortunately, between 2011 and 2020, there were 1,009 fatal crashes nationwide involving school buses. (NHSTA) Here are a few things to think about when it comes to sharing the road with school buses:

1. Ohio has laws making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped for loading and unloading students. If red lights are flashing and the stop sign is extended on a bus, **YOU MUST STOP.**
2. School buses use yellow lights to alert motorists that they are slowing down and preparing to stop for the loading or unloading of students.
3. It is not safe to pass a bus that is flashing yellow lights. Children are unpredictable!
4. The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children. Stop far enough back to allow them space to load and unload the bus safely.
5. Never pass a bus or another vehicle on the right; it is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

If you have any questions on safety tips for your child when it comes to school safety, please call the Union County Sheriff's Office.