

Pay Attention ~ School is in Session

The Dane County Sheriff's Office is joining with AAA-Wisconsin to raise awareness of safety around school buses. As the school year begins, drivers must increase their awareness and watch out for children going to and from school.

Traffic will naturally increase this time of year, so drivers should plan accordingly and add time to their morning commute. During the first days/weeks of school, children may be excited and, at times, unpredictable, making it more important than ever to slow down and give driving your full attention. Save the texting, phone calls, and other distractions for later, because being distracted could be deadly.

What do drivers need to know?

- Watch for the STOP sign on the side of the bus. If it's extended and the red lights are flashing, you must stop at least 20 feet from the bus.
- If the STOP sign is extended and the yellow lights are flashing, prepare to stop.
- If the STOP sign is not extended, but the yellow lights are flashing, slow down and proceed cautiously.

"The safety of our children is one of my highest priorities as your Sheriff," said Calvin Barrett. "That's why we are dedicating extra patrols around school zones and bus stops to stop violators and educate drivers on the dangers of ignoring these traffic laws."

For a more detailed guide on safety tips for students, go to AAA's School's Open Drive Carefully campaign page, [School's Open – Drive Carefully!](#) They provide safety tips for students and parents, no matter what mode of transportation they choose to take to and from school.