



Media Release

from the
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School Zones

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By now, school is back in session for everyone. Because of this, it is important to remind drivers of the dangers that school zones present.

Drivers must pay special attention to the speed limit sign when approaching schools. Whenever any pedestrian approaches or enters the roadway in a school zone, traffic is expected to yield to the pedestrian. Here are some helpful tips to help drivers through school zones:

- Pay attention to school zone signs when approaching. Drivers must read every sign approaching the zone so the driver understands the rules for the school zone or crossing.
- Slow to the posted speed limit. A vehicle approaching the crosswalk shall not proceed at a speed of more than fifteen (15) MPH between the portable signs placed on the highway (road) indicating "school in session" and/or "stop when children are in crosswalk."
- Drivers may not accelerate until they have completely passed the halfway point of the school zone. The halfway point is the clearly marked or designated crosswalk for pedestrian traffic. The vehicle's rear tires must have passed the crosswalk completely prior to the driver accelerating.
- If drivers are uncertain where the school zone ends (the crosswalk), the driver should remain traveling at 15 MPH until there is no doubt the vehicle is well clear of the school zone.
- Be alert to pedestrians in and around the school crossing zone. Children are unpredictable and do not always remember to use the guarded crosswalk or to stop and check before crossing the road.
- Be willing to stop. Drivers should approach school zones and crossings with the mindset that they will have to stop. This way, when the crossing guard or a child steps into traffic, the driver is prepared to stop.

"Keeping the Peace and Serving the Community Since 1865"

The Pima County Sheriff's Department wants to reassure all parents that we are working diligently to keep children safe on their journey to and from school. Traffic enforcement will be conducted throughout the school year, in and around school zones. Deputies will be targeting motorists who do not stop for school buses, speed in school zones, and fail to stop for pedestrians in crossing zones, to name a few.

Children are unpredictable and we would also like to remind parents to educate children about the hazards associated with traveling near heavily traveled roadways. Speak with your children about traffic safety and teach them when and where it is safest to cross. Always use crosswalks yourself to model safe behavior.

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