

# Fairfax County Police Department

Traffic Division / Traffic Safety



## Back to school means paying attention to kids and traffic laws

**The goal this school year is to make everyone on the road safe. Be patient and courteous when driving**

**Do not let stress and frustration get the best of you while driving.**

**Be patient and courteous.**

**Do not drive when angry, overtired or upset.**

**Allow extra time to get to your destination.**

**When possible, change your schedule to avoid congestion.**

**Give other drivers the benefit of the doubt - all drivers make mistakes.**

**Avoid all conflict, even if you are right.**

**And let's remember those school buses with passengers that are precious cargo. So, when you're behind a school bus, take a deep breath, be patient, and appreciate that the children are being transported safely to school or child care settings.**



**Here are general child safety tips concerning school buses:**

1. When a school bus stops and flashes red lights, traffic approaching from either direction must stop before reaching the bus.
2. Motorists should stop at least 20 feet from the bus. Buses can easily be identified by the signage indicating "SCHOOL BUS," the unique yellow/orange paint color. Remember that school buses come in many lengths and sizes. Daycare buses may also be in the vicinity of schools and areas for drop-off and pick-up and motorist caution must be observed around them as well.
3. Be prepared to slow down and possibly stop whenever you see a school bus. Also know that school buses stop prior to entering any railroad track, so be sure to not follow too closely.
4. Know that you must remain stopped for a school bus until the red lights stop flashing, or until the bus driver or police officer/traffic director directs you to proceed.
5. Before proceeding, watch carefully for children on the side of the road and drive very cautiously until you are out of the drop-off area. Children have been known to dart across a street, not realizing motorists are nearby.
6. Become familiar with your neighborhood or community bus routes. Don't assume the routes and times will remain the same from last year. Because of student ages and needs, it is likely that the routes will be changed every year. If possible, avoid those routes at the time of day of pick up or drop off of students.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traffic>

