SAFETY TIPS

 STUDENTS AND PARENTS

• Cross in crosswalks.
• Watch for and obey crossing guards.
• Look both ways before crossing the street.
• Be careful crossing multiple lanes of traffic.
• Make sure each lane of traffic is clear before you cross.
• Pay attention. When walking, avoid distractions like cellphones.
• Obey signs and signals.
• Cross the street where you have the best view of traffic.
• Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from the road as you can.

 ADULT AND TEEN DRIVERS

• Know when to stop for school buses.
• Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
• Obey all posted school zone speed limits.
• Never pass a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.
• Before turning, be sure the path is clear.
• Slow down near bus stops, schools and playgrounds.
• No drinking and driving.
• Buckle up.
• Avoid distractions such as food, passengers and using mobile devices.
• Texting while driving is illegal.

 Additional Safety Tips for Teen Drivers

• Don’t speed.
• Avoid distractions.
• Cellphone use is illegal for drivers under 18.
• For provisional license holders, no more than one passenger at a time.

North Carolina has stiff penalties for motorists who fail to comply with school bus safety rules.

• There is a $500 penalty for motorists who are caught passing a stopped school bus, and a five-point penalty on their driver license.
• A driver who passes a stopped school bus and strikes someone will face a Class I felony and be fined a minimum of $1,000.
• The penalty increases to a Class H felony and fine of $2,500 if someone is killed.

For more information, visit WatchforMeNC.org to learn more about what you can do to keep roads safe for everyone.
NC SCHOOL BUS STOP LAW

Two-lane roadway: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.

Four-lane roadway without a median separation: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.

Divided highway of four lanes or more with a median separation: When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.

Two-lane roadway with a center turning lane: When school bus stops for passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.

Roadway of four lanes or more with a center turning lane: When school bus stops for passengers, only traffic following the bus must stop.

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