



Title: **Be careful driving near children**
 Author:
 Size: 18.75 square inch
 Joliet, IL Circulation: 17163



Be careful driving near children

To the Editor:

Motorists need to be alert for children walking or riding bikes, and when driving cars near schools as students prepare for another year of learning.

The Illinois Insurance Association, a property-casualty insurance trade association, and its members urge drivers to reexamine back-to-school safety procedures. Precautions to keep in mind:

- Never pass a stopped school bus from either direction unless you are on the other side of a divided highway.
- Slow down in rural areas. Children may need to cross in front of the school bus when getting on or off. Remain 20 feet behind a stopped school bus until flashing lights are off and you have confirmed no children are nearby.
- Follow school zone speed limits. Illinois law prohibits cellphone use in these areas.
- Pay attention to crossing guards.

Watch for children who may unexpect-

edly appear between cars or outside the crosswalk.

- Follow school rules when dropping off or picking up students. Do not double park. Avoid unloading or picking up children across the street from the school.

- Stay off the phone and avoid distractions in neighborhoods and areas where children gather – even outside designated school zones.

- Talk to children about school traffic safety. Encourage them to cross streets at marked crosswalks, obey crossing guards, avoid wearing headphones and be watchful.

The insurance industry, along with school officials, parents, police officers and local communities want children to get to and from school without incident.

Let's work together to eliminate transportation-related school accidents this year.

Kevin Martin

Executive director, Illinois Insurance Association