



For Immediate Release  
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## HPD Encourages Back to School Safety

As summer draws to a close and students of all ages return to school, the Harrisonburg Police Department reminds drivers and pedestrians the importance of safety in school zones. Starting Tuesday, August 20, HPD will be patrolling and strictly enforcing driving infractions in all school zones.

With school in session, there will be significantly more traffic - buses, pedestrians, and parents transporting students, all of which contribute to school zone congestion.

"Traffic issues such as speeding, parking, u-turns, and distractions are very prevalent in these zones, and drivers are urged to slow down, be alert, and practice safe driving skills," stated HPD Chief of Police Stephen Monticelli.

HPD recommends these simple suggestions to help make school zones safer for everyone:

- Don't Speed
- Don't impede traffic
- Don't block intersections or school entrances
- Watch for children on foot and on bicycles
- Ensure seatbelt use when transporting students to and from school
- Don't use cell phones, and absolutely No texting

Special attention must also be paid to buses displaying flashing red lights when on an undivided roadway. In these instances, drivers are required by state law to stop and wait until the flashing red lights are turned off before passing a bus.

In addition, parents who choose to drive their children to school are reminded to carefully secure each child in the proper child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt, and ensure that no child is inadvertently left behind in a motor vehicle.

*Harrisonburg*  
VIRGINIA



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

A heightened awareness can help prevent incidents when navigating a school zone and the Harrisonburg Police Department is committed to enforcing all traffic laws to ensure the City's school zones are safe for everyone.

The Harrisonburg Police Department wishes everyone a safe and successful school year!