



Police Department News Release



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Contact: John Ellison | Director of Support Services
Rowlett Police Department | 4401 Rowlett Road or P.O. Box 370 | Rowlett, TX 75030-0370
o 972.412-6188 | f 972.463.6226 | jellison@rowlett.com

Rowlett Police Remind Motorists to Prepare for Start of New School Year

ROWLETT, TX – The start of a new school year is a time of stress for parents and students alike due to class and transportation scheduling, shopping for clothes and class supplies, and establishing routines for extracurricular activities. The Rowlett Police Department wants to remind parents and students that with the start of school, commuting safety should be on the forefront of everyone's mind. When school starts, the morning commute takes longer due to active school zones and student crossings in conjunction with additional vehicles on the road, many of them first year drivers!

Planning ahead for the school commute will undoubtedly save time, lower frustration levels, increase level of alertness and increase the safety for yourself and loved ones. Before school actually starts is the time to plan, in addition to allowing enough travel time, simple things such as identifying the school zones, the time frames that they are active, locations of pedestrian crossings and school bus pick up times along the routes you travel, will enable you to plan your daily commute efficiently. Other tips for the start of the school year include:

Know the Law:

- Stop for flashing red lights on a school bus while it is loading and unloading.
- Continue your trip once the bus has moved, or the flashing lights have stopped flashing.
- A driver may not use a **wireless communication device** while operating a motor vehicle within a school zone, unless; the vehicle is stopped or the **wireless communication device** is used with a hands-free **device**.
- Pedestrians must yield to vehicles on the roadway if you cross the street at a place other than a marked crosswalk or pedestrian tunnel or crossing.
- Stay on sidewalks and the right-hand side of crosswalks.
- Drivers are supposed to yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Obey the posted speed limit.

Keep an eye on children gathered at bus stops.

Watch for children who might dart across the street to catch the bus.

If riding the bus, sit quietly so the driver can pay attention to the road.

Look both ways if you have to cross the street after getting off the bus, or wait for the driver to signal it's safe to cross the street.

Always cross roadways at intersections.
Look left, then right, then left again before proceeding.
Look for traffic when stepping off a bus or from behind parked cars.
As a passenger, get in or out of a car on the curb side of the street.
Make eye contact with drivers before you cross the street.

Lieutenant Leroy Brantley

“The start of a new school year is hectic for everyone, but we must remain alert when travelling through school zones and around buses, if we don’t the outcome could be tragic. I suggest that motorists in the City of Rowlett focus on safety and the law when travelling through school zones; I know officers of the Rowlett Police Department will be focusing on them starting August 22nd.”

John Ellison
Director
Support Services Division/PIO
Office 972-412-6188
Cell 469-628-1588