

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Day of School Traffic Information for KISD

KERRVILLE, TX (August 15, 2016) – August 22nd marks the start to the 2016-2017 school year causing traffic en route to all KISD campuses to be heavier than normal. Kerrville ISD is reminding drivers to be aware of school buses and school zones as another school year begins.

It is helpful to develop a plan among families and to communicate with the school and their children about transportation and safety to and from school.

“Make it clear to the school how your child will be getting home on the first day,” Brad Harvey, Transportation Director for Kerrville ISD said. “If they ride the bus, make sure they know how to get home from their bus stop and to NEVER approach or talk to a stranger.”

To help ease traffic congestion, it is beneficial for as many students as possible to ride the bus on the first day. Students are bus eligible if they live two or more miles away from their assigned campus. It is important to allow 10 to 15 minutes of extra time for travel during the first three days of school.

Kerrville ISD’s schools have active school zones in effect. School zones are marked with a flashing sign that indicates when reduced speeds are in effect and the required speed limit. All KISD school zones are cell phone restricted areas.

“We take seriously the trust and confidence that the parents and community have placed in us to transport what is most precious to us,” Harvey said.

Following is a list of safety suggestions for Kerrville drivers and children. For more information on the Kerrville ISD transportation department, or bus routes to Kerrville ISD schools, please call the transportation department at 257-1333.

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TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TIPS

Drivers

- Obey school zone laws.
- Don't text or talk on phones in school zones.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops and walking to and from school.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws. Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:
 - **Yellow flashing lights** indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should **slow down and prepare to stop** their vehicles.
 - **Red flashing lights** and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must **stop** their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Children

- Get to the bus stop at least **five** minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least 10 feet away from the edge of the road and form a single file line.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least 10 feet ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver. Wait for the driver to motion you to cross the street.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.
- Always walk to school using sidewalks when possible.
- Cross the street only at crosswalks and in groups when possible.
- Look both ways and proceed slowly.