

# Tips for Driving Safely through School Zones

**Expect the unexpected.** Children may cross the street at the wrong place, or unexpectedly run or ride in front of you.

**Know what is around you.** It's easier to anticipate that children (or parents) will do that which is unexpected if you're aware that they are there.

**Be courteous.** Parents who are running late may need to get back into traffic after dropping their child off. Give them a break.

**Obey all laws.** Don't travel faster than 15 miles per hour, and travel even slower if there are a number of children along the road or crossing the street. Come to a full stop at intersections.

**Be predictable.** Don't make sudden maneuvers that others, particularly children on foot or on a bicycle, aren't expecting.

**Don't be distracted.** Put down the coffee, put down the cell phone, and put both hands on the wheel. Avoid distractions within your vehicle, including loud music. Ensure your children are secured in a correctly installed child restraint system.

**Yield the right of way to pedestrians.** It isn't just courteous, it's Mississippi law.

**Stop in either direction for a school bus with its red lights flashing.** If the bus is outfitted with flashing yellow lights, anticipate it will soon stop and children may be crossing in front of you.

**Be patient!**

## Other tips to consider

Avoid traffic around your school by parking a block away and walking your child the rest of the way.

Follow your school's traffic pattern for drop-off and pick-up. If your school doesn't have a plan, contact the principal and suggest that one be developed.

Walk your child to school to reduce traffic congestion and improve health.

Drop children off on the school-side of the street. Avoid having them cross the street.

Teach your child to look all ways (left, right, behind and front) and then to walk cautiously when crossing a street.

