



City of Buellton Police Department

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School Zone Safety

With the start of the new school year, it is important to establish and maintain safety routines that insure your children and others get to and from school safely. Based on previous collisions and observations from traffic safety experts, here are some tips for those routines.

Leave for school early enough that you don't need to rush. Last minute rushing causes people to speed, miss hazards, and take unnecessary risks. If you are late, you will also be required to go to the school office first, get a tardy slip, and then go to class.

If you drive your kids to or from school:

- Plan your route so your children will not have to cross the street. Park on the school side of adjacent streets or drop them off in the school's designated loading and unloading zones.
- If you have to park across the street from the school, do not allow your children to cross the street from between parked cars or mid-block. It is harder for drivers to see them. Walk with them and insist that they use the marked crosswalks.
- Do not pass school buses stopped with their red lights flashing. Kids may be running to or from the bus. By the way, school buses are the safest form of transportation in the United States.
- The speed limit for areas around both schools is 25mph. However, conditions such as congestion, children being present or inclement weather may cause the safe speed to be lower. Radar is used to measure speed in school zones.
- Watch for and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at all intersections. Unless they jump out in front of you, they have the right-of-way at these locations.

- Do not make U-turns on streets adjacent to schools. In most cases this is legal, but because of the increased traffic, it is not safe.
- Stay off your cell phone, put down your coffee, don't put on your make-up, and don't eat while driving. Distracted and inattentive driving is the route cause of over 40% of the collisions in Buellton.
- Put on your seatbelt before you move the vehicle. All children under 8 years must be properly secured in child safety seats in the back seat. (There are limited exceptions for children over 4 ft 9 in, if the vehicle does not have a back seat or if the back seat is full with other children.)
- Do not park in the bus loading and unloading area, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant (not all are marked with red curbs), double park (beside parallel parked vehicles), angle park (with the rear of your vehicle sticking out into traffic), or in passenger loading and unloading areas.
- Do not stop or park blocking crosswalks in either the street or parking lot.
- Pay attention to signs on school property directing the traffic flow and limiting the time allowed for parking. Violators may be cited per the California Vehicle Code.

If your kids walk or ride their bicycle, scooter, or skateboard to school:

- Consider walking or riding with your children. Their behavior will likely be safer with you present. This also allows you to regularly talk to teachers, other parents, and your child's friends.
- Everyone under 18 years old is required to wear a bicycle helmet when riding a bicycle, scooter or skateboard. Parents, be a good example and wear your helmet too. The important thing is safety, not just minimally complying with the law.
- Walk your bicycles, scooters and skateboards on school property. Do not ride, play or loiter in parking lots. Drivers, especially those who are backing, may not see you. Use sidewalks to enter and leave campus.
- Bicycles ridden in the street are required to be ridden next to the right curb and in the same direction as vehicles. Riding in the opposite direction of vehicles is the most common cause of bicycle vs. vehicle collisions.

Have a safe school year.