

## Travels Tips for Back-to-School

The summer travel season is coming to an end. Soon class will be back in session. For many area students that means heading out to catch the bus, or carpool. For others, it means taking a daily walk back and forth to school or jumping on their bikes for a quick ride down the road.

Regardless of how students may travel, drivers should remain alert during school hours.

This edition of The Road Ahead offers tips on for safe travels to and from school.



### Safe Cycling

Bicycling has long been a popular way to get to school. Here are some safety tips for cyclists:

- Wear light-colored, reflective clothing.
- Consider wearing an approved helmet and other protective gear.
- Children under 12 years of age must wear an approved safety helmet.
- Ride on the right side of the road.
- Signal your intentions in advance.

Find additional safety information online at [www.penndot.gov/safety](http://www.penndot.gov/safety).

### Walk This Way

October is National Walk to School Month. It is a time for parents, students, school officials, and community members to review and abide by pedestrian safety tips, including wearing light-colored or reflective clothing, walking against traffic, making eye contact with motorists before crossing the street, and being aware of surroundings.

On October 5, schools and social groups will join together for Walk to School Day. The event helps kids map out an ideal path to school and provides a group setting in which to travel.

To find out more about Walk to School Day or the Pennsylvania Safe Routes to School program go online to [www.penndot.gov/safety](http://www.penndot.gov/safety).

## Teen Driver Tips

Vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death among 16 to 24 year olds due to several factors, including inexperience, distractions, speeding, and improper or careless turning.

According to PennDOT data, there were more than 395,000 drivers ages 16 to 19 in 2016. Of those, 17,023 were involved in a crash.

When it comes to safe driving, no one is more influential in the life of the typical teenager than mom and dad. Parents should set rules for safe driving and lead by example.

Following the National Highway Safety Administration's "5 to Drive" tips can also help teens stay safe on the road:

- No cell phones while driving.
- No extra passengers.
- No speeding.
- No alcohol.
- No driving or riding without a seat belt.

Other helpful hints include the following:

- Don't eat or drink while driving.
- Adjust the radio, controls, seats and mirrors before hitting the road.
- If you cannot see a truck's mirrors the driver cannot see you.
- Get directions ahead of time and leave early.
- Expect the unexpected. You never know what can happen.

**National Teen Driver Safety Week will be held from October 17 to 21. Observances will be at high schools throughout the region.**



## School Bus Safety

Students play a major role in school bus safety. It goes beyond "stay in your seat and keeping quiet." Here are some tips for helping the driver keep everyone safe:

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early. Never run after the bus if it has already left the stop.
- When waiting for the bus, line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway.
- Walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so you can be seen by the bus driver.
- Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train.
- Never play with or block the emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- When getting off of the school bus, make sure that all drawstrings and other loose objects are secure so they don't get caught on the handrail or in the door.
- If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus.