

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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## TOP TEN SCHOOL ZONE AND BUS SAFETY TIPS!



School bus and school zone traffic safety is a top priority as Okaloosa County students head back to school August 19th. A great information resource is available at:

<http://floridaschoolbussafety.gov/>

1. Never pass a stopped school bus that has its lights blinking and signs showing.
2. If you are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, you must stop UNLESS there is some type of physical barrier or at least five feet of empty space. That means stop on most two lane and/or neighborhood streets.
3. Pay extra attention to lower speed limits in school zones.
4. Don't pass other cars, change lanes, or make U-turns in school zones.
5. For those riding the bus, wait in a safe place at the bus stop for it to arrive.
6. If you have to cross the street, walk at least twelve feet in front of the bus and never walk behind it.
7. Never run out in the street or cross between parked cars.
8. Get off the bus only at your assigned stop.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

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- 9. Never speak to strangers or get into someone's car without your parent or guardian's permission.
- 10. Never text and drive.

## Florida's School Bus Stop Law

The following is a summary of Florida's school bus stop law requirements:

- Florida Motor Vehicles Laws require that motorists stop upon approaching any school bus which displays its flashing red lights and has its stop signs extended.
- Interested parties should refer to sections 316.172, 318.18, 318.19, and 322.0261, Florida Statutes (FS), for the specific language in the law. Florida Statutes can be found at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/>
- Section 316.172, FS provides that:
  - Drivers who pass a school bus illegally on the left side commit a moving violation, punishable under Chapter 318, FS.
  - Drivers who pass a school bus illegally on the right side where students enter or exit the bus commit a moving violation, punishable under Chapter 318, FS and are subject to a mandatory hearing.
- Amount of penalties (Section 318.18, FS):
  - Left hand pass:
    - 1st offense: \$165
    - 2nd or subsequent offense (within 5 years): \$165 plus license suspension for 90 days to 6 months
  - Right hand pass:
    - 1st offense: \$265
    - 2nd or subsequent offense (within 5 years): \$265, license suspension for 180 days to one year, plus a mandatory hearing
- Driver improvement course (Section 322.0261, FS):
  - The offender must, in addition to other applicable penalties, attend a DHSMV-approved driver improvement course. If the operator fails to complete the course within 90 days after receiving notice, his or her driver license will be canceled until the course is successfully completed.
- For any violation of Section 316.72, FS, 4 points assessed against driver license (Section 322.27, FS):



Points:	Within:	License Suspension, up to:
12	1 year	30 days
18	18 months	90 days
24	3 years	1 year

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