

## Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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# OCSO ISSUES 15 SCHOOL ZONE CITATIONS DURING THIRD WEEK OF "OPERATION SAFE SCHOOLS"



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is taking part in an initiative created by the Florida Sheriff's Association called "Operation Safe Schools."

In the third week of operation, the OCSO tracked 88 calls for service with 15 citations for speed within an active school zone. In addition, deputies issued 32 warnings for speed and a pedestrian violation.

The program's goal is to protect students with increased patrols in school zones, at bus stops, and at crossing guards locations – and to increase public awareness about the need for vigilance now that school is back in session.

The OCSO Public Information Office is sharing school zone traffic safety tips via social media outlets Facebook and Twitter:

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



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#### OCSO SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY TIP

#### **Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians**

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- \*Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- \*In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- \*Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- \*Take extra care to look out for children in school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas
- \*Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- \*Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- \*Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way



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