



# PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Reminder: “Back to School” Traffic Enforcement Begins

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . The Prince William County Police Department wishes to remind all motorists that with schools open, members of the Department are continuing to target traffic violations in the areas of schools, at school crossings, and around school buses as they travel on area roads. Along with other offenses, Police are focusing on two specific violations that significantly impact the safety of our school children: **Passing a Stopped School Bus** and **Speeding in a School Zone**.

The purpose of these extra efforts is to help protect students and school staff. Charlie T. Deane, Chief of Police said, “Traffic safety involving our students, schools, and school buses is one of the highest priorities for the members of this Department. We ask that drivers pay particular attention and use caution when driving through school zones and around buses, not only for the next few weeks, but throughout the year.”

The Code of Virginia requires drivers to halt, when approaching from any direction, any school bus which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children. Motorists must remain stopped until all persons are clear of the roadway and the bus is put into motion. (Drivers need not stop if the school bus is stopped on the other side of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the street on which they are driving by a physical barrier or an unpaved area. The driver of a vehicle also need not stop when approaching a school bus which is loading or discharging passengers from or onto property immediately adjacent to a school if the driver is directed by a law-enforcement officer or other duly authorized uniformed school crossing guard to pass the school bus.) Violating this law constitutes reckless driving and can result in a fine of up to \$2,500 and possible jail time.

Also, when the lights on a School Zone sign are flashing, the speed posted on the sign is in effect and will be aggressively enforced. The penalty for speeding in a school zone is severe and can result in a fine of over \$250.00 (if the speed and circumstances warrant, drivers can be charged with reckless driving).

The Department will be using speed measuring devices (including radar and LIDAR) and additional specialty vehicles to help bolster enforcement efforts again this year.

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