

# School Safety

During the start and end times of school sessions, there is an increase in both vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the vicinity of school zones. It is of paramount concern that school zones are kept safe for pedestrian traffic.

In order to address the issue of pedestrian and school safety, the Prattville Police Department provides crossing guards in the city limits as well as at Prattville High School. Crossing guards perform an invaluable service by helping young students cross the streets safely on their way to and from school. They also direct traffic at busy intersections close to the schools.



You can help by following these rules when driving through school zones:

- Slow down and drive more carefully around schools and residential areas.
- Follow the directions of the crossing guard.
- Be extra vigilant to watch for children crossing the road. They are sometimes overlooked because of their small stature so pay close attention to your surroundings.
- Be patient with heavy traffic during peak school hours. If you are running late, take another route if at all possible.
- Drive with your headlights on, even during the day, so children and other drivers can see you.
- Scan between parked cars and other objects for signs that children might dart out into the road.
- Watch out for bicyclists.
- Always stop for school buses that are loading and unloading.

Parents can keep their children safe by teaching good pedestrian habits.

- Find the safest route to school and walk the route with your children.
- Teach your children the meaning of traffic signals and signs along the route.

- Teach your children to obey the police, school safety patrols and crossing guard's directions.
- Remind children to watch for cars backing out of driveways.
- Teach children to stop, listen and look for approaching and turning vehicles, especially those turning on a red light.
- Teach children how to look left-right-left before crossing streets.
- Always set a good example of safe pedestrian conduct for your children.
- Remind your children they should NEVER get into a vehicle with a stranger.

If you have any questions about school traffic, contact Lt. Yarbrough. For school safety issues, contact Lt. Mangrum. Both of these individuals can be reached at the Prattville Police Department by phoning 361-3671.