



City of Kerrville

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Back To School Traffic Safety

(Aug 16) Private schools were back in session on Monday, August 15, while all Kerrville public schools will be back in session on Monday, August 22, 2016. This is a time when Kerrville's motorists will face an increase in traffic congestion and children walking on our roadways. Frustration levels rise and concern for other motorists and pedestrians declines.

Here are a few tips to help with the morning and afternoon commute:

- **Drive the Posted Speed Limit:** This reduces the possibility of being involved in an accident. Don't tailgate.
- **Identify Alternate Routes:** Avoid the congested areas when possible. Use controlled intersections. Leave a few minutes early in case of a delay.
- **Stop for red lights and stop signs:** Look in all directions before proceeding. Children may be crossing the street.
- **Pay attention to all "school zones" and warning signs.**
- **Do not pass school buses when lights are flashing during loading or unloading.**

Children walking to and from school:

- Walk on the sidewalk when possible. If there is no sidewalk, keep off the road as much as possible and walk facing traffic.
- Don't engage in horseplay. Never push or shove others when you're walking near a road.
- If you need to cross the street, use a crosswalk if you can. Look left-right-left for cars and do not cross if a car is coming. Wait for traffic to come to a full stop.

You may encounter aggressive drivers who exceed the speed limits, change lanes frequently, abruptly and without notice, follow too closely, pass on the shoulder, or even threaten others.

If you encounter an aggressive driver:

- Make every effort to get out of their way.
- Put your pride aside and do not challenge them.
- Report the incident to police (830) 257-8181. Be ready to provide a vehicle description, license number, and direction of travel.

An important change in the Texas Transportation Code passed by the 81st Texas Legislature as House Bill 55 amends Section 545.425 - **Use of Wireless Communication Device**. This law which became effective September 1st, 2009, prohibits any driver from using a wireless communication device while in a school zone unless the driver's vehicle is stopped or the driver is using a hands-free device. A passenger bus driver is also prohibited from using a wireless communication device while operating the bus with a minor passenger on board unless the passenger bus is stopped. A TXDOT approved sign must be posted at the entrance to each school crossing zone in the municipality, county or political subdivision that enforces this section.

Section 545.431 - Seat Belts, states that **everyone** in the vehicle including "Child Care" vans transporting 15 or fewer passengers are required to wear seat belts or in child safety seats.

The Kerrville Police Department is tasked to reduce the number of accidents and associated injuries that occur within the city limits of Kerrville. They will be monitoring school zones, targeting aggressive drivers and focusing on reducing the number of accidents that occur within the city.

Please drive safe, be courteous and report aggressive driving immediately.