

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 26, 2005

For More Information Contact:  
Randy Nehrt

TRAFFIC SAFETY HINTS

BY SECRETARY OF STATE JESSE WHITE

Schooldays are here again and motorists are reminded to obey the law when approaching a stopped school bus and to slow down when entering school zones and residential areas.

*Q. During what hours is the 20 mph school zone speed limit in effect?*

**A.** Between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on school days when children are present and signs are posted. Many schools offer after school day care, so motorists need to slow down and practice caution after 4 p.m. as well. Under Illinois law, all school zones are no passing zones.

*Q. What does the law say about stopping for a school bus?*

**A.** Motorists on a two-way roadway must stop before meeting or overtaking a school bus that is loading or unloading passengers or has its stop sign signal arm extended. Bus drivers will flash the lights on the front and rear of the bus at least 100 feet in advance (200 feet in rural areas) to warn motorists of an approaching stop. You may proceed when the stop arm is no longer extended, the bus resumes motion or the bus driver signals you to pass.

*Q. What is the rule for approaching a stopped school bus on a street with two or more lanes of traffic in each direction?*

**A.** If you are approaching the bus from the opposite direction, you do not need to stop. However, slow down and proceed with caution. Drivers in all lanes of traffic going in the same direction as the bus must stop.

*Q. What is the penalty for passing a stopped school bus?*

**A.** If convicted, you will lose your driving privileges for three months. If you receive two convictions within five years, your driving privileges will be suspended for one year. In addition to the suspensions, violators will be fined \$150 for the first conviction and \$500 for a second or subsequent conviction.

###

(# 8)