

See and Be Seen When Bicycling, Walking and Driving

This week, National School Bus Safety Week, represents an important reminder of driving and walking safely near school buses, and all buses for that matter. Students riding school buses and people riding public transportation are friends, neighbors and North Texans.

Organized by the National Association for Pupil Transportation each year, National School Bus Safety Week highlights issues important to protecting students who use the school bus.

This year the organization is emphasizing that students should wait for a bus in a safe place to be seen. Thousands of schools across 40 states participated in the poster contest featuring the theme.



Photo: iStock

The message is important for two reasons. Students should wait away from the street and passing traffic, and it may be difficult for a bus driver to see anyone closer than 10 feet from a bus. Students and anyone walking near a bus can avoid this danger zone by crossing streets at designated crosswalks. Drivers, of course, are prohibited from passing a school bus stopped for loading or unloading.

Beyond the bus stop, seeing and being seen are important to bicycling, walking and driving safely. When walking, look left, right and left again when crossing a street, and only cross at crosswalks at intersections. Never cross between parked vehicles or vehicles waiting at traffic signals that could obscure vision of oncoming traffic as well as block a driver from seeing someone walking. Additionally, wearing bright colors and reflective materials makes someone walking more visible during the day and night.

Unfortunately, the number of crashes between vehicles and people bicycling and walking has increased in recent years as well as the resulting fatalities. It is more important than ever to look out for one another and understand how people driving, bicycling and walking should interact so everyone arrives safely at their destinations.

To learn more safety tips for bicycling, walking and driving, visit www.LookOutTexans.org.