

Know your Blind Spots

Every vehicle has blind spots—areas outside the vehicle that are not visible to the driver—even with car mirrors and backup cameras. Blind spots on SUVs and school buses are particularly large and can hide students more easily. Always check before shifting out of “Park,” backing up, and while changing lanes.

Know the Rules of the Road

An informed driver is a safe driver. Familiarize yourself with your school's arrival and dismissal procedures and understand school zone laws:

- **Use the correct car seat** – Children younger than eight and under 57 inches tall must be in a federally approved car seat or booster seat.²
- **Everyone buckles up** – It's the law in Massachusetts.³
- **Slow down in the school zone** – 20 MPH is the max speed in school zones.⁴
- **Do not pass a school bus with its flashing lights engaged** – Bus stop arm cameras are now allowed to help monitor violators.⁵
- **Do not idle** – Excessive idling for more than 5 minutes is against the law.⁶
- **Follow posted signage** – Don't park where signs say “No Parking,” “Handicapped Parking Only,” and “Fire Lane.”

Safety First

for Student Passengers

Whether you're heading to school, sports practice, or a student activity, every drive in the family vehicle counts when it comes to safety. Vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for children in the U.S., but many of these deaths are preventable.¹ Following simple safety steps can make all the difference in protecting passengers.



Source:

¹ www.cdc.gov/child-passenger-safety/about/index.html

² www.mass.gov/info-details/car-seat-laws-in-massachusetts

³ www.mass.gov/info-details/car-seat-laws-in-massachusetts

⁴ www.ma legislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter90/Section17

⁵ www.mass.gov/info-details/mass-general-laws-c90-ss-14c

⁶ www.ma legislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIV/Chapter90/Section16B

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massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



On the Way



Avoid using your cell phone; if necessary, use hands-free mode.

Set ground rules for passenger behavior to minimize distractions.



Don't speed; budget extra time to avoid feeling rushed.



Be mindful of people walking/biking, buses, and Crossing Guards when approaching school zones.

Refer to the Driver Education page on the SRTS website for more helpful, multi-language resources including a 'Student Safety During Arrival and Dismissal' flyer: www.mass.gov/lists/safe-routes-to-school-driver-education

Navigating the School Drop-off/Pick-up Zone



Familiarize yourself with your school's arrival/dismissal procedures.



Follow instructions from Crossing Guards and school staff.



Be patient! Wait your turn while in the family vehicle queue.



Do not double park or make U-turns.



Do not park on crosswalks or near street corners.



The bus lane is for buses and vans only.

Loading and Unloading Passengers



Back seats only please! Grade Pk-8 students should not be near airbags.



Place your vehicle in "Park" before loading/unloading.



Fasten seatbelts and car seats before your vehicle is in motion and after backpacks have been removed.



Only use the rear passenger side of the vehicle for student loading/unloading.



Never cross a street or school driveway in front of or between vehicles.