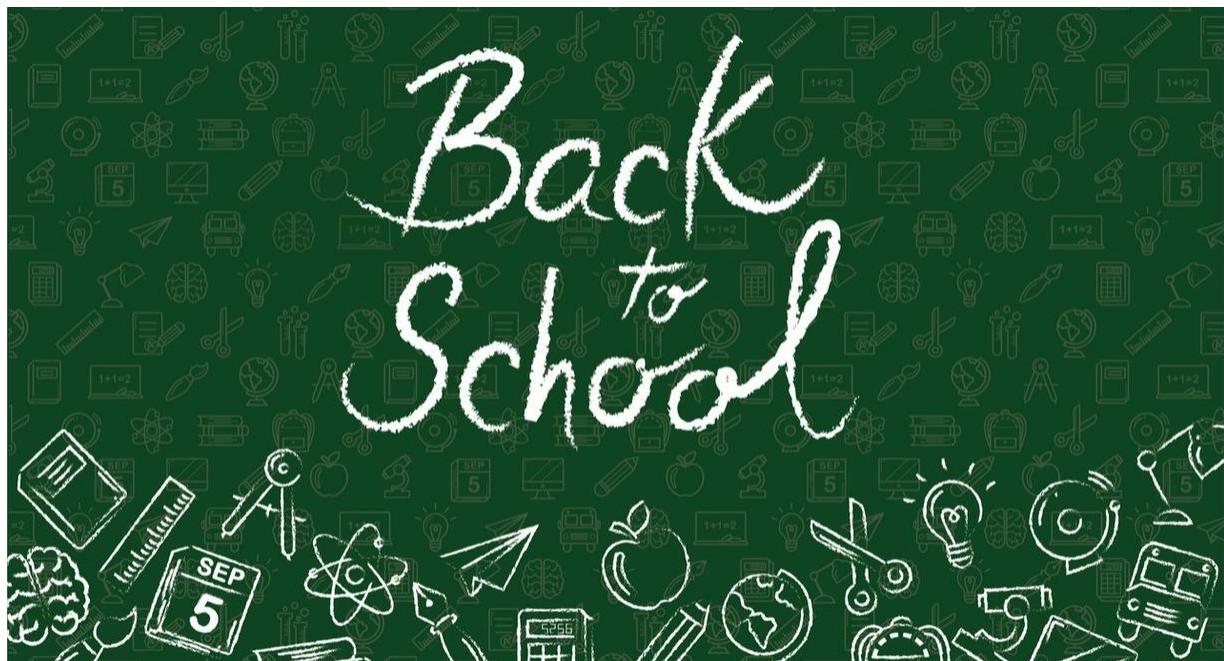


Ready PA *monthly*

✓Be informed. ✓Be prepared. ✓Be involved

A Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) digital newsletter

Ready PA Monthly - August 2021



Back-to-School Weather Safety

In a few weeks, Pennsylvania students will be heading back to school or off to college, and for many, this may be the first in-person experience in over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to ensure kids and teenagers understand how to stay safe from weather hazards in a different or new environment.

Click "READ MORE" below for safety tips and reminders for parents to share with their kids as a new school year begins in Pennsylvania.

[READ MORE](#)

Back-to-School Bus Safety

School bus safety is a high priority in Pennsylvania. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, transportation personnel, and the motoring public all play important roles in keeping our children safe while on or around the school bus.

Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law

- Motorists must stop at least 10 feet away from school buses that have their red lights flashing and stop arm extended.
- Motorists must stop when they are behind a bus, meeting the bus, or approaching an intersection where a bus is stopped.
- Motorists following or traveling alongside a school bus must also stop until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm is withdrawn, and all children have reached safety.
- If physical barriers such as grassy medians, guide rails or concrete median barriers separate oncoming traffic from the bus, motorists in the opposing lanes may proceed without stopping.
- Do not proceed until all the children have reached a place of safety.

The penalties if convicted of violating [Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law](#) include:

- \$250 fine
- Five points on your driving record
- 60-day license suspension

For more information, review [Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law Fact Sheet](#).
Tips for Parents/Students

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic. Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off the school bus.
- Always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus when crossing so that the school bus driver can see you.
- Be aware; cross with care! Wait until the school bus has stopped all traffic before stepping out onto the road.
- When the school bus is moving, always stay in your seat. Never put your head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Talk quietly; do not distract your school bus driver.
- If your school bus crosses railroad tracks, be calm and quiet so that your driver can listen for a train.
- Always obey your school bus driver's instructions so that they can make safe decisions.
- Never play with the emergency exits. Backpacks, band instruments, or sports equipment may not block the aisle or emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- When getting off the school bus, make sure that all drawstrings and other loose objects are secure so that they don't get caught on the handrail or the door.
- Never cross the street behind the school bus.
- If you leave something on the bus or drop something outside of the bus, never go back for it. The driver may not see you and begin moving the bus.
- Never speak to strangers at the bus stop, and never get into the car with a stranger.

Want to learn more? Download the [Ready PA School Bus Safety Tip Sheet!](#)

National Night Out: The Tradition Continues

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes positive police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO is a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Communities from all 50 states participate in NNO on the first Tuesday of August.

This year, NNO falls on August 3rd.

How do you find out about NNO in your community? Contact your local law enforcement agency. You can also visit the NNO website at natw.org.



AUGUST TIP SHEET: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

AUGUST SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

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