



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

July 1, 2013

Dear School Bus Driver:

I am writing to ask your continued support of school bus safety for the 2013-14 school year with a renewed emphasis on the safety of students *outside* the bus. Four North Carolina public school students were killed last year when they were struck while crossing the street to get on or off their bus. Three of the motorists *illegally* passed the stopped school bus while the stop sign was out and the red lights were flashing. We must work to put an end to this kind of tragedy.

The most important safety practice is that students **MUST** understand the need to look both ways before stepping into the road – either from the side of the road into the roadway to board the bus, or from the front of the bus, after exiting, when crossing one or more lanes of traffic.

It is important to note that roadway danger exists regardless of the student's age. Young children simply do not have the experience and need regular reminders of these important safety rules. Older students may be distracted by cell phones and music devices with ear phones among other things. These students also need to understand the basic need to **LOOK** before stepping into the roadway.

I am asking for your assistance in helping students to learn this simple – yet lifesaving – practice. Students that are not checking for traffic before crossing should be reminded to do so. You should report to the principal when students – after being reminded a few times – continue to step into the road without looking. Your cooperation here is very important.

Working together, we **CAN** make a difference to improve student safety. Thank you in advance for helping to keep the children in your care as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June St. Clair Atkinson".

June St. Clair Atkinson

JSA:DG

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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