



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

July 1, 2013

Dear Parents:

I am writing to ask for your support in reinforcing to your child(ren) some basic safety rules when getting on and off the school bus. Sadly, four students were killed last year by other motorists as the children were crossing the street getting on or off their school bus. Three of those motorists *illegally* passed the stopped school bus while the stop sign was out and the red lights were flashing. We are working 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. Your support is essential in helping them to learn this simple – yet lifesaving – practice.

Students should not step into the road until they look both ways and make sure that traffic is stopped. Students who do not observe this safety requirement will be reported to the principal by the school bus driver.

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 among other things. These students also need to understand the basic need to **LOOK** before stepping into the roadway.

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

Sincerely,

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

June St. Clair Atkinson

JSA:DG

Attachment

## OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent* | [june.atkinson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:june.atkinson@dpi.nc.gov)  
6301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6301 | (919) 807-3430 | Fax (919) 807-3445  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER