

# BUS STOP KIDS

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It's that time of year again folks. Kids are back in school for the new year. Many of these students take the school bus back and forth to school every week day and this can put them in harm's way if they are not careful and those individuals driving near and around students and school buses in their vehicles

away.

Bus monitors also walk across the front of the bus to the other side to check the area and under the school bus in order to make certain it is all clear and safe to drive away to the next bus stop. Patience is very important when children are out and about during the school year when it comes to driver and

on the road and observe traffic laws in order to keep yourself and others safer. A series of BUS STOP KIDS Coloring Cartoons are being distributed to grade school aged students across the region to help prevent unintentional injuries and potentially prevent a fatality during this school year in grade schools, libraries, daycares, family clinics, pediatric doctors offices and community centers. Kids

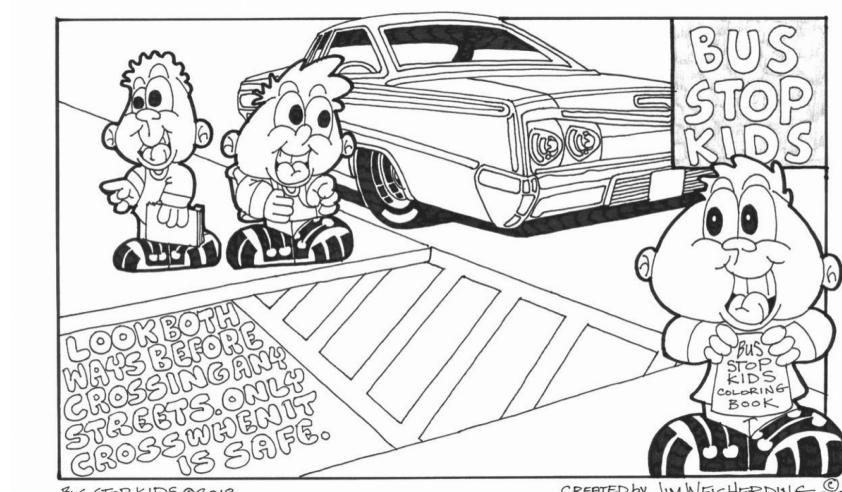


are not careful.

Many police officers I attend community events with this time of year talk about how dangerous some drivers are when it comes to kids walking to and from school buses that is borderline reckless. Many drivers pass school buses when their hazard lights are flashing putting not only bus monitors in harm's way but also the students getting onto and off of the school bus while crossing the streets.

Traveling in communities such as South County, Rhode Island, have safety hazards when drivers do not stop for flashing overhead lights on school buses because they think if the bus is on the farside of the wider roadways it's okay to just keep driving. That is not the case.

Even though many roadways in the southern part of the state have four lane travel roads a driver approaching from the opposite direction or trying to pass on the left side of the school bus should still come to a complete stop when flashing lights are on. The students may be on the right side of the roadway entering the school buses but that doesn't mean someone could try and cross that roadway to catch the bus before it pulls



vehicle safety.

Worried that you might be late for work, or an appointment? Leave earlier, allowing for school bus stop delays. Speed is another serious factor when it comes to bus stops, school buses and kids.

Slow down. Pay attention. Keep your eyes

will be kids and adults should be cautious when driving their vehicles near bus stops and school buses.

Let's try and keep everyone safer this school year by making good decisions and driving safely. A child's life could depend on your actions.