



## Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin



### Back to School Safety



School is almost back in session, meaning all over the country kids are protesting and parents are celebrating! But regardless of your feelings toward classes resuming, it's important to remember some safety tips specific to this time of year.

With everyone on the move and on their way to school, be sure to take an extra look for school buses, cyclists, and pedestrians sharing the road with you. When you see a school bus, it's important to obey all signs or information it might have for the safety of children boarding or getting off. Before riding the bus, tell children about [safe and unsafe behaviors on and around the bus](#). Such behaviors include staying in your seat and buckling up if seat belts are available, looking both ways twice before crossing a road, and always using handrails when boarding or exiting, staying in the driver's line of sight after exiting.



Biking and walking to school are great ways to save gas and reduce your carbon footprint. When biking, wear a [properly fitted helmet](#) at all times and try to remain in bike lanes if available. Just by wearing a helmet, cyclists reduce the risk of a head injury by 60%! When biking to school, learn not only the signs and traffic laws around you, but also use hand signals so drivers know where you're headed. The [League of American Bicyclists](#) offers many [resources for cyclists](#), such as bike shops, advocacy organizations, education opportunities, and bike-friendly areas.

If walking to school, children should pay attention to their surroundings and [not use cell phones or gaming devices while walking](#). If they need to make a call or send a text, the safest action is to remain on the sidewalk out of the way of pedestrian traffic. In order to hear warning signs or directions, it is safest not to walk with headphones in. These same precautions go for drivers, who also need to pay close attention around schools.