



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs

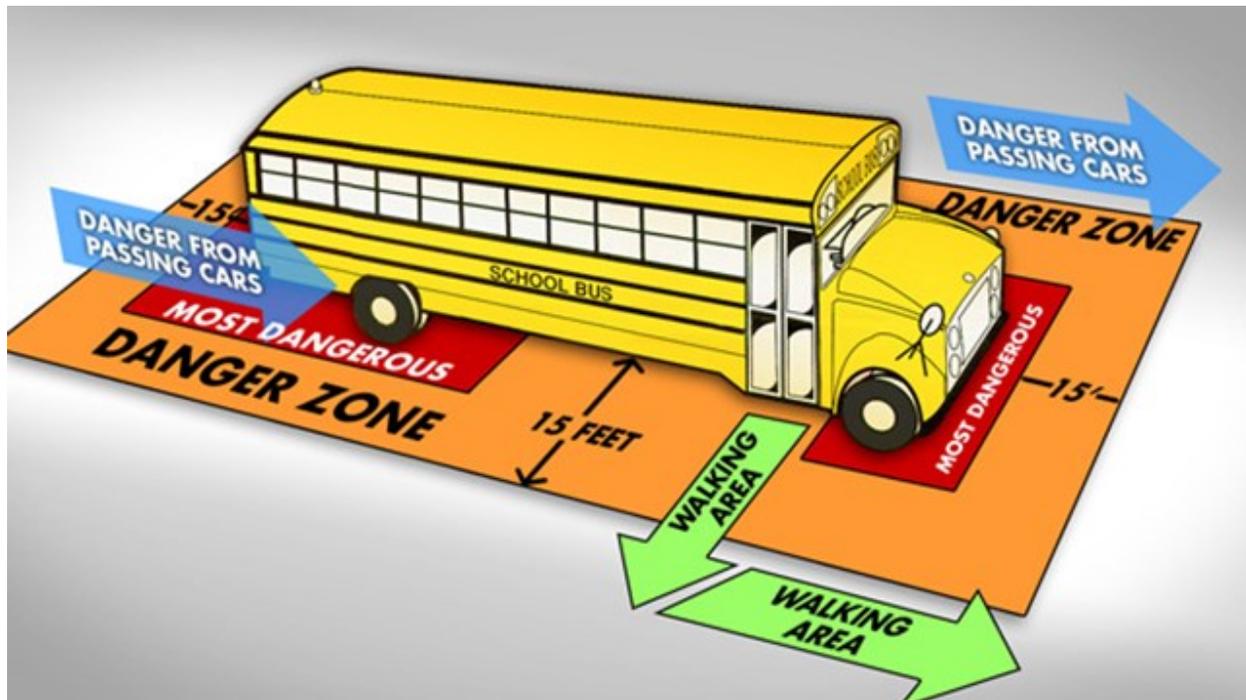


**Media Relations Information for 08/15/2018**

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**Traffic safety at forefront for LPPD as school year begins**



School bus danger zones, from the Northside Independent School District Transportation page

Area schools are now approaching the start of their 2018-2019 sessions. Therefore, the La Porte Police Department is once again reminding drivers to remain cautious while driving within areas surrounding the City's various school campuses.

As most LPISD students begin their return to school on Wednesday, August 15th, there will be a noticeable increase in the amount of pedestrian traffic, bicycle riders, school buses, and increased number of vehicles along the roadway. Therefore, motorists traveling during the morning and mid-afternoon hours should expect delays in their commute as school zones will be back in effect.

As a primary effort of ensuring community safety near district schools, La Porte patrol officers will increase their presence near LPISD campuses and will also aid School Resource Officers in handling various problems which occur on or near the grounds of each campus. In addition, during both the beginning and the end of each school day, La Porte Police Traffic Division members will focus their enforcement efforts primarily on the areas surrounding schools as well. While the usual speeding, seat belt, and red-light violations will be heavily targeted, officers will



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also be on the look-out for vehicles blocking intersections and those who choose to avoid those intersections by traveling through business parking lots or racing down residential side-streets to minimize their exposure to congested traffic areas.

Passing a loading or unloading School Bus is dangerous and carries a fine of \$280.75. In the absence of a physical barrier, motorists are required to stop for loading and unloading School Buses on Spencer Highway, while traveling in both directions. While legal to do so, drivers are cautioned to refrain from passing a School Bus on a two-lane roadway, especially in the Lomax area.

As an additional reminder, Texas State Law allows for La Porte's City ordinance prohibiting the use of wireless communication devices, such as cell phones, within School Zones and on school property, while the vehicle is in motion. Fines for these violations can exceed \$300 while speeding violations within School Zones begin at \$200.

Overall, La Porte Police Department encourages drivers to consider allowing for extra travel time and to be safe. These two techniques, along with extra attention to those on foot or riding bicycles, will undoubtedly go a long way in keeping the community safe. For more information on the department's traffic enforcement efforts, please call 281-842-3171.