

**For Immediate Release**

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**August is Back to School Safety Month: Community Members Reminded to Slow Down and Look for Children in School Zones**

**Ventura, Calif.** – As students return to the classroom, the City of Ventura reminds parents and residents to slow down, follow the speed limit and be extra careful driving through school zones.

"Imagine driving as though your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew were walking or biking to school," said Mayor Joe Schroeder. "During busy pick-up and drop-off periods, maintaining patience and prioritizing the safety of these young commuters is crucial. Opting for a slower pace is a smarter choice than regretting haste."

The City of Ventura offers the following tips to stay safe around schools:

- Slow down and follow the speed limit.
- Adhere to school policies and procedures for dropping off and picking up students.
- Stop for school buses. Watch for children rushing to catch the bus or exiting. Drivers must remain stopped while the red lights are on. Drivers in both directions must stop on any two-lane road without a median or a center turn lane.
- Whenever possible, avoid blocking the crosswalk while waiting to make a right-hand turn.
- For parents with children walking or biking to school, teach them safe walking and riding behaviors, such as looking both ways before crossing the street, using sidewalks when available, and crossing at marked crosswalks with stop signs or signals.

Share your thoughts about school zones by participating in the Go Safely Movement, a call-to-action traffic safety survey from the California Office of Traffic Safety. Take the survey at [gosafelyca.org](http://gosafelyca.org).

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