

# COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## Press Release

**SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Sheriff Bartlett Reminds Drivers that Back to School Means Sharing the Road, Provides Back to School Safety Tips**

**Columbia County, NY-** As the kids head back to school, Sheriff David P. Bartlett reminds parents, commuters, kids and teens to make safety a priority and provides the following safety tips to review and share.

#### Know New York's School Bus Law:

- It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when the large red lights are flashing, even on divided and multilane highways and on school grounds.
- You must stop whether you are approaching the school bus from the front or overtaking it from the rear.

#### Drive Safely:

- Obey signs, signals, and crossing guards in school zones.
- Slow down, especially around bus stops, and in school zones, and during, before and after school hours.
- Stay alert behind the wheel. Avoid use of electronic devices and other distracting behaviors while driving.
- Look for and expect to see pedestrians and bicyclists, especially before and after school.

#### Remind Walkers to:

- Walk on the sidewalk if one is available; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Pay attention when walking. Avoid texting, talking on the phone, and using headphones.

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- Look left, right, and then left again before crossing the street. Never cross the street while using an electronic device.
- Cross only at crosswalks.

At the Bus Stop, Remind Children to:

- Stay three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb when waiting for the bus; and wait until the driver says to board.
- Quickly board the school bus, find a seat, sit facing the front, and follow direction of the school bus driver.
- Getting off the bus, wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross. Then cross at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the front of the bus. Look left, right, and then left again for traffic.