

For Immediate Release



Contact: Ekaterine Tchelidze
Town of East Hartford
Phone: 860-291-7202
Cell: 860-817-8590
etchelidze@easthartfordct.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(August 16, 2018) **East Hartford, CT** – As the new school year begins on August 29 and children are ready to head back to school, the East Hartford Police Department would like to remind all drivers to use caution on the roads and stop when the lights on school buses are flashing red. Connecticut State law requires that drivers stop for school buses that are flashing red lights, on all undivided highways whether they are approaching or are behind the school bus. Failure to stop can cause serious consequences and carries fines for motorists starting at \$465.00 for the first offense.

However, it is also important for children to entertain caution.

"As school starts up, it is important for parents and guardians to remind their children about safety procedures around bus stops," Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc said. "Most accidents involving school buses take place while children are entering or exiting the school bus each day, so please take extra care when traveling behind or near a bus."

According to the East Hartford Police Chief Scott Sansom there are a number of safety tips for children to remember:

- Have a safe place to wait for the bus and enter and exit the bus away from traffic
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to complete stop and the driver signals to enter
- When being dropped off, children should exit the bus and walk ahead of it before crossing in front as the bus driver can see them better
- Use the hand rails to enter and exit the bus
- Children should be aware of their surroundings and be extra careful while crossing the street
- Children should always look both ways before crossing any street

- If children have questions regarding their safety or the behavior of other riders during their trip, they should bring their concerns to their parents, police, or school officials immediately to ensure the safety of all.

Over the next couple of weeks East Hartford Police Officers will be stepping up enforcement in school zones and bus routes to ensure that the motoring public is obeying traffic laws so our children can stay safe. **In case of an emergency, call 911.**