

The installation has recently received reports from the Frederick community that personnel are not adhering to speed limits in residential areas and stopping for stopped school buses. Following are some of the rules that must be observed for driving in Maryland. Every effort must be taken to ensure newly assigned personnel are aware of Maryland driving rules.

*** You must adhere to the Posted Speed Limit.**

In few other ways does society ask and expect behavioral consistency such as it does in driving on our streets and highways. But drivers' skills, attitudes, and time pressures vary greatly, as does their perception of an appropriate speed limit. Whatever the speed limit, some will consider it to be too high; others, too low. What the public should expect and demand is that, within the latitude provided in Maryland law, engineers set the most appropriate speed limits on the basis of thorough engineering study and the application of sound traffic engineering principles.

Is it always safe to drive at the speed limit?

Speed limits typically are set for ideal conditions. Therefore, drivers must recognize and appropriately respond to adverse conditions. Maryland vehicle law requires that motorists drive at a reasonable and prudent speed and with a regard for existing and potential dangers. Motorists must adjust their speed according to the existing vehicle and pedestrian traffic, road surface, lighting, and weather conditions. Maintaining a Safe Speed at all times is a serious responsibility shared by all motorists.

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not when riding in the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. It is essential that drivers know traffic safety rules regarding.

Drivers:

- * When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- * When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.
- * Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- * Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- * Learn and obey the "alternately flashing warning light" system that school bus drivers use to alert motorists:

- Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

- Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists approaching from either direction must wait until the red lights stop flashing before proceeding.

NEVER attempt to go around a school bus with red flashing lights!