

Summer 2010 Road Rules: Back To School

In each issue of the Township Newsletter, the West Goshen Police Traffic Safety Unit will provide information for drivers, focusing on sections of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code or on other traffic safety issues.

With a new school year approaching, motorists are reminded to be vigilant of school children and school buses. The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code provides strict penalties for drivers who fail to obey speed limits in school zones and stopped school buses. The Vehicle Code reads in part:

3345. Meeting or overtaking school bus.

(a) DUTY OF APPROACHING DRIVER WHEN RED SIGNALS ARE FLASHING.-Except as provided in subsection (g), the driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking any school bus stopped on a highway or trafficway shall stop at least ten feet before reaching the school bus when the red signal lights on the school bus are flashing and the side stop signal arms are activated under section 4552(b.1) (relating to general requirements for school buses). The driver shall not proceed until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated. In no event shall a driver of a vehicle resume motion of the vehicle until the school children who may have alighted from the school bus have reached a place of safety. The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection at which a school bus is stopped shall stop his vehicle at that intersection until the flashing red signal lights are no longer actuated.

(g) EXCEPTIONS FROM STOPPING REQUIREMENTS.-The driver of a vehicle upon a highway or trafficway with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus with actuated red signal lights which is on a different roadway.

(j) PENALTY.-A person who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$ 250 AND receive 5 points on their license.

3365. Special speed limitations.

(b) SCHOOL ZONES.-When passing through a school zone as defined and established under regulations of the department, no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour. An official traffic-control device shall indicate the beginning and end of each school zone to traffic approaching in each direction. Establishment of a school zone, including its location and hours of operation, shall be approved by the department.

(d) PENALTY.-

i) For a violation of subsection (b), a fine of not more than \$ 500 if the person exceeds the maximum speed limit by more than 11 miles per hour AND receive 5 points on their license.