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School Bus Safety Highlighted

(KAIR)--School bus safety week is underway now through Friday, and Safe Kids Kansas is urging parents, children, and motorists to exercise caution around school buses.

Cheri Sage, Director for Safe Kids Kansas, says that despite some risks, school buses are still the safest way for children to be transported to and from school, even more so than riding in a vehicle with their parents. School buses can help in that they are big, yellow, and tend to not get in many crashes compared to other motor vehicles. They also help to reduce that traffic congestion on the road caused by pedestrians and kids biking to school.

Sage also reminds motorists that regulations are in place outlining what should be done around school buses. Drivers should look out for kids who may be exiting or entering a school bus. State law states that if a bus is stopped and has their stop sign extended, a vehicle must stop, no matter what direction they are coming from.

Sage says that it is also important for parents to teach their kids how to act around a school bus. She recommends that parents walk with their kids to the bus stop and wait until it arrives. Because of their size, buses have a pretty large blind zone, so children need to take five giant steps away from the bus to ensure that the driver can see them, and always cross in front of the bus, never behind it.

To learn more about pedestrian safety and child passenger safety, visit safekids.org

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