



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SAFE TO SCHOOL AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September begins the traditional school year, which leads to a higher concentration of commuters, especially children, traveling by motor vehicle, bus, bicycle, and walking along roadways; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the state's first motorized school bus service, which was started by the Pamlico County School District in Oriental on September 5, 1917; and

WHEREAS, students who take a school bus are about 70 times more likely to arrive safely to school than those who travel by car; school bus drivers now use hand signals as an extra measure of safety to assist students who must cross the street to board the bus, and public schools are responsible for providing bus safety training to students during the first days of school and at least once every semester; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, there were 7,144 charges statewide for speeding in a school zone, and 1,444 charges for failure to stop for a stopped bus; each year, more than 2,400 pedestrians and 960 bicyclists are hit by vehicles in North Carolina, with 26 percent of those crashes involving citizens aged 19 and younger; and

WHEREAS, reducing traffic violations through increased enforcement and public education outreach is the most effective way to improve traffic safety and prevent fatalities involving school commuters; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids North Carolina works to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading cause of death of children age 19 and younger, through education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Active Routes to School project works with partners in North Carolina communities to make it easier for elementary and middle school students to safely walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, Let's Go NC! is an educational pedestrian and bicycle safety program that teaches elementary-age children how to walk and bike safely, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a website – www.watchformenc.org – devoted to improving safety around schools and providing resources for pedestrian, bicycle, and motor safety; death and injury, particularly of children, can be prevented by practicing safe commuting habits

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2017, as "SAFE TO SCHOOL AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.