



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**

**GOVERNOR**

**SAFE TO SCHOOL AWARENESS MONTH**

**2018**

**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**, students who take the school bus are about 70 times more likely to get to school safely than those who travel by car; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina public schools are responsible for providing school bus safety training to students during the first days of school and at least once every semester; and

**WHEREAS**, 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

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, there were 6,699 charges statewide for speeding in a school zone, and 1,513 charges for failure to stop for a stopped bus; and

**WHEREAS**, death and injury, particularly of children, can be prevented by practicing safe commuting habits; and

**WHEREAS**, Safe Kids North Carolina's mission is 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's website devoted to improving safety around schools, [www.watchformenc.org](http://www.watchformenc.org), provides resources for pedestrian, bicycle, and motor safety; 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 those who commute to school;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2018, as "SAFE TO SCHOOL AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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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-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.