



# Willows Police Department

William Spears, Chief of Police

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Dear Parents and Motorists,

Schools in Willows have begun again on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be facing more children traveling to and from our schools on foot and bicycle. The school district has been forced to reduce the bus transportation of children this year. As responsible and caring adults we must remember that although we remind our children to be careful, many times their minds are fixed on other things. We therefore must take it upon ourselves to be even more safety minded to ensure their safety. Here are some reminders that we can all do to heighten the safety of our children.

- **Parents** have a talk with your children about walking or riding their bicycles/skateboards safely to and from school. Include basic safety practices such as,
  - Only cross streets at intersections.
  - Look both ways and ensure it is safe before crossing a street.
  - Do not cross midblock and never cross from between parked cars.
  - Do not walk in the street. Walk on sidewalks. The city has added more sidewalks through the "Safe Routes" program for their safety.
  - Do not run into the street.
  - Bicyclists/skateboarders wear your helmet.
  - Bicyclists keep to the right close to the curb. Do not cut through traffic.
  - Bicyclists watch car and truck traffic – make sure they see you (wear clothes that can be seen).
  - Bicycles should not be ridden on sidewalks.
  - Walk bicycles across busy intersections.
  - Skateboarders need to be careful of others using the sidewalks.
- **Motorists** need to be attentive to dangers associated with children traveling to and from our schools.
  - Slow down! The speed limit near schools and within residential areas is 25 MPH unless posted higher. California's basic speed law directs that motorists shall not travel at a speed higher than conditions allow for safety. Therefore if there are numerous children present the safe speed could be lower than the 25 MPH or posted speed limit. Be prepared to stop.
  - Obey stop signs and signal lights! Be especially watchful for young children around such intersections.
  - Obey crossing guard instructions! They are there to keep our children safe.
  - If taking your child to school, do not double park and have your child dodge through parked cars to the curb. This is very dangerous.

Last year we had some instances where children were hurt because of traffic collisions. We were lucky that the injuries were not serious or fatal. Let us work together to prevent such accidents this year. After all our children are our future and we all want them to grow up and have wonderful lives. Thank you.

**William Spears,**  
**Chief of Police**