



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Howard County Police Focus on Speed Enforcement in School Zones** *Program Increases Patrols to Keep Students Safe*

As children prepare to return to school this month, Howard County Police are working to ensure that students, parents and teachers arrive safely. Through a continuing back-to-school program, officers will focus on enforcing speed, seat belt and child safety seat laws in school zones.

The H.A.S.T.E. program (Helping Arriving Students Through Enforcement) was implemented several years ago by the Howard County Police Department to raise awareness about traffic safety in school zones. Targeted patrols will be in place on roadways surrounding elementary, middle and high schools for the first two weeks of the school year. Officers will use radar and other methods to identify drivers who are speeding in those areas.

Police also are reminding citizens that the law requires drivers to stop for school buses with red lights flashing.

“We hope that police presence around the schools will send a message to drivers to slow down,” said Chief of Police G. Wayne Livesay. “Students throughout the region will be walking and driving to and from school and we want to make sure every one of them arrives safely.”

In addition to keeping pedestrians from harm, police will work to keep those in vehicles safe as well. As parents and high-school students drive to school, officers will check for seat belt and child safety seat use to ensure that all children, teenagers and adults are properly restrained.

“This is a time of year when everyone should be especially cautious on the roads,” said Chief Livesay. “We are working to raise citizens’ awareness and help avoid a potential tragedy before it happens.”

The police department will continue to conduct enforcement efforts throughout the school year on all bus routes.

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