

### Motorist Caution Urged Around School Buses

(KTNC) - Now that school is back in session, the Missouri State Highway Patrol says there's even more reason for drivers to be distracted.

Patrol Sergeant Brent Bernhardt reminds motorists that it's illegal to pass a bus stopped for students. He's asking drivers to report anyone who illegally passes a school bus, and says troopers will investigate any complaint they receive of a motorist passing a bus that is loading or unloading students. (play audio :31 "to stop.")

It is illegal to pass a school bus from either direction if the bus is stopped and the stop arm is extended.

Bernhardt is also asking students and parents to put the phone away and don't text while driving. Missouri state law prohibits anyone under the age of 21 from texting while driving, but Bernhardt asks everyone to adhere to the rule. (play audio :31 "from school.")

Bernhardt says with families making more plans during the school year, it might be more tempting to text friends and family before and after school. The Missouri State Patrol says distracted driving is the number one cause of traffic crashes.

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