Summer is over and it’s back to school time! In an effort to keep your new school year fun and safe we ask that parents and children/students, and also, school staff and teachers, follow these simple guidelines when traveling to and from school:

- **Walk with your children to school.** Walking to school promotes health, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone.

- **Obey all posted speed signs.** Slow down when entering 15 MPH School Speed Zones. Pay special attention at the signs showing hours of activation. Police will enforce this!

- **Obey all posted roadway signs.** For example: “Do Not Enter” signs are for designated limited access streets around some schools. Police will enforce this!

- **When stopping, standing, or parking your vehicle, please use the designated areas only.** Do not block driveways or sidewalks. If you use non-designated areas, or are blocking access ways, you will be ticketed!

- **Buckle Up!** Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. Fines are $129 per person, per infraction. If a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt or child restraint, the driver will also be ticketed $186.

- **Pedestrian Safety Tips:** Always STOP at the curb/edge, and LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT before crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals with crossing guard, when available, making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.

- **Be Safe...Be Seen:** When walking or bike riding wear bright colors during the day. During dawn, dusk and night times, use lights and/or reflective clothing so you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

This safety message is brought to you by School Board Chairman Perla Tabares Hantman, District IV, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Your Local Community Traffic Safety Teams, and its partners. Be Smart. Be Safe.