



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Florida Department of Transportation District Six Urges Back to School Safety**

**Miami, Fla.** –The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six is urging the community to focus on back to school safety. The Monroe County School District has had students back in the classroom since mid-September, and on Monday October 5, Miami-Dade County Public Schools began face-to-face instruction. Traffic volumes have increased, and school buses are back on our roadways.

FDOT reminds motorists that by state law, wireless communications devices can only be used in a hands-free manner while driving in a designated school zone or active work zone area. This law is a primary offense and prohibits texting while driving. Motorists should never drive distracted and be extra watchful in areas surrounding schools for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

“Distracted driving endangers driver, passenger and bystander safety,” said FDOT District Six Secretary James Wolfe, P.E. “Follow Florida laws and do your part to keep our students safe as they return to school.”

School buses are again transporting children to school, so motorists should properly stop for buses to protect children. Motorists traveling in either direction are required to stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and STOP arms extended. The only time traffic approaching an oncoming school bus does not need to stop, is if there is a raised barrier such as a concrete divider or at least five feet of unpaved space separating the lanes of traffic.

For more information on back-to-school safety information please contact the FDOT District Six Public Information Office at (305) 470-5349 or FDOT District Six Community Traffic Safety Team Coordinator Carlos Sarmiento at (305) 470-5347.

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