

# SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

## SAFE VEHICLE BACKING

When we talk about personal safety, we often focus on lifting boxes, walking safely across campus, or working with students. But what about when we get behind the wheel? Every year, staff and district property are involved in vehicle accidents and most of them happen while backing.

The next time you operate a district vehicle or your personal vehicle, pause and think, “What does safe backing look like and is it safe to back from this space?”

### Campus Safety Reminder for Staff:

- ❖ Try and avoid backing, if possible, pull forward instead of backing the vehicle.
- ❖ Choose your parking wisely. Reduce your risk by avoiding spaces with heavy foot traffic, blind spots, or narrow paths where students or pedestrians may suddenly appear.
- ❖ Set yourself up for success. Adjust mirrors properly and make sure nothing is blocking your rear view.
- ❖ Don't rely solely on cameras. Use mirrors, turn your head, and scan blind spots before moving.
- ❖ Eliminate distractions. Stay focused, don't start phone calls or multitask as you begin backing.
- ❖ Expect the unexpected. Always assume students, staff, or pedestrians could be in your path.
- ❖ Anticipate changes. A clear area can quickly change, be ready to stop immediately.
- ❖ Avoid conflict and competing for parking spaces, there are always other options.
- ❖ Report close calls to administration where they have been vehicle and pedestrian near-misses.



### Large Vehicle Deliveries on Campus:

For those scheduling on-campus deliveries or services, always try to avoid having large vehicles during high-traffic periods. Children and adults can easily walk into a path of a backing vehicle thinking that they have the right of way and that they will be seen. To reduce the risk of accidents between vehicles and pedestrians adopt a “no delivery” practice during morning drop off or student pick up periods.

**Please contact your ASCIP Risk Services Consultant or our Risk Services team at [RM\\_Info@ascip.org](mailto:RM_Info@ascip.org) for questions or to discuss further.**