

August 16, 2011

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The flashing lights in school zones in Burleson will be activated on Thursday, Aug. 18, to test the systems for next week's first day of classes. Students return to Burleson Independent School District campuses on Tuesday, Aug. 23. Students return to Joshua Independent School District campuses Monday, Aug. 22.

The City of Burleson maintains the school zone lights at Kerr Middle School on Johnson Avenue, The Academy at Nola Dunn (Dobson at Ellison), Taylor Elementary on Alsbury Boulevard, and Burleson High School on Elk Drive.

The Texas Department of Transportation maintains the flashing school zone lights on FM 1902 (Caddo Grove Elementary), East Renfro (Stribling Elementary), and Wilshire Boulevard (North Joshua Elementary).

The Burleson Police Department's traffic unit and patrol officers will be monitoring the school zones. The City is responsible for two school zones in the Joshua School District and 13 in the Burleson School District.

School zones exist on Dobson Street, Thomas Street, Hillside Drive, Alsbury Boulevard, Evelyn Lane, Johnson Avenue, Hurst Road, East Renfro Street, Elk Drive, Summercrest Boulevard, Pleasant Manor, and McAlister Road as well as Wilshire Boulevard/Hwy. 174, Ranchway Drive and FM 1902.

Remember, if you don't have a hands-free device you can't use your cell phone while driving through an active school zone in Burleson. This change has been in effect since 2009. It is illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. "Use of a wireless communication device" includes texting, reading or answering e-mails, and any and all other functions of a cellular telephone. Violating this law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$50.

Burleson police officers also advise drivers to be vigilant about their speed, children crossing the road, and students who may be darting out from between vehicles.