

Smooth transition back to school

The summer is winding down, and the school buses are firing up. That must mean it's time to prepare your staff for the challenges and fun associated with the start of school. Here's a quick list of things that might help smooth the transition from summer vacation to school.

Caution Signs—Even though careful driving in your parking lots and around your building should be standard practice, drivers could benefit from a little reminder that school is in session. That helps those, especially people without school-age children, to be a little more aware that students might be entering roadways or walking in or near them. You might encourage drivers to put down the phone and avoid and other distractions while driving in these kid-friendly zones.

Activities—Are you interested in providing a little encouragement to families of school-age children? Consider a get-together early in the school year that allows parents to get to know each other and gives kids a chance to goof off with their chums. Maybe a back-to-school pool party or a game night in your activities room would make a good setting.

Flyers—Your property management staff might want to send out a few helpful notes to residents who have school children giving them helpful information regarding emergency care cards, lockouts, items dropped in the hallways or on common ground, and behavior at bus stops and inside the apartment building's shared areas. Remember, many children are coming home to empty apartments; a gentle reminder to parents about your expectations for apartment residents could bring about an important conversation at home. You should also encourage your staff to develop an awareness of which units have unattended minors.

Remember Your Teachers—Many apartments are home to school teachers, so don't forget them in your planning. A wine and cheese get-together that invites teachers from your local schools, whether your residents or not, is a nice way to make your commercial residential complex an active part of the greater community.

With a few, low-cost steps, your multifamily residence can assist in a happy, healthy transition from a carefree summer vacation to a careful return to school. We're always happy to see pictures from your back-to-school events, so share your good ideas with your peers to spread the success!

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