

Safety Tips for Getting to School



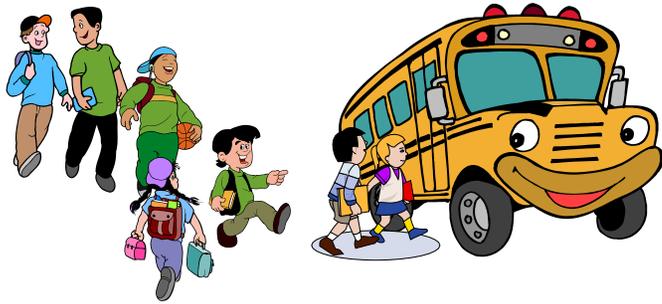
Walkers

Parents should:

- Know your child's route of travel to and from school.
- Determine a route that ensures children cross a minimum number of major streets, have maximum advantage from protection offered by existing traffic controls, and walk on sidewalks or paths out of the street wherever possible.

Students should:

- Follow the same route to and from school daily.
- Cross only at crosswalks and intersections.
- Look both ways before crossing.
- Stay on sidewalks and pathways when possible..
- Not talk to strangers



Bus Riders

Parents should know the following:

- Buses are eight times safer than other road vehicles.
- Most school bus accidents are property damage accidents.
- Most student fatalities occur outside the bus, usually during loading and unloading.
- Students are to board and disembark at their regularly-assigned bus stop.
- Students should always be at the bus stop and ready to board the bus five minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of the bus.

Students should:

- Stand on the sidewalk or back from the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road.
- Know that one of the most dangerous parts of a bus trip is crossing the road. Other traffic should stop, but don't depend on it. Be extra careful. Always wait for your bus driver's signal to cross, then check traffic yourself before you step from the protection of the bus.
- Never cross closer than 15 feet to the front of the bus.
(about five giant steps in front of the bus)

- Always obey the driver and follow all bus rules when riding the bus.
- Follow the safety tips for walkers to and from the bus stop.

Crossing the road safely... when boarding the bus

Follow the ten foot rule:

- Stay on your side of the road, far away from traffic.
- Wait for the bus to stop and for your driver's signal to cross.
- Check traffic both ways, then check again.
- Cross by walking directly across, checking both ways.
- Walk about ten feet ahead of the bumper, and board the bus quickly.

when leaving the bus

- Walk along the side of the road until you can see the driver.
- Stop and wait for the signal to cross.
- Walk/Look for traffic in both directions, crossing the road quickly after all vehicles have stopped.

Bicycle Riders



In addition to the safety tips for walkers, bicycle riders should...

- Wear a helmet; and
- know and obey signs and traffic signals.



Drivers

- Give yourself plenty of time, don't rush.
- Reduce distractions that may hinder you from hearing or observing what is happening outside your vehicle. *(i.e., listening to a radio, using a cellular phone, putting on makeup, eating, etc.)*
- Look for children walkers, bicycle riders and riders boarding and leaving a bus.
- Stop, do not pass a school bus that is stopped with red flashing lights. It is the law and violators will be subject to fine and suspension of his/her driving privilege.
- Obey the speed limit, especially in the school zones.

**Remember:
Children First!**

*Safeguarding the Future . . .
Today!*