

# Safe Route to School: The Importance of Pedestrian and Bike Safety

**Don't tempt fate - that text can wait.**

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*Whether you're walking home from school or riding your bike with friends While you're out and about, remember to keep the following tips in mind to ensure you reach your destination safely!*

## **Pedestrian Safety**

- Use crosswalks whenever possible. In general, pedestrians don't have the right of way when crossing the street mid-block.
- Stop at all intersections and check traffic before crossing. When possible, cross at locations where adult school crossing guards are present.
- If there's a crosswalk sign, wait until it reads "Walk" before crossing the street. If it reads "Don't Walk," push the button and wait for it to change before crossing.
- Cross when the light going your direction is green or while cars are stopped at a stop sign. Make sure to make eye contact with drivers who are stopped before you walk in front of them.
- When crossing the street at a corner, remember to look left, then right, and then left again to be sure it's safe to cross.



- Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Pay attention! Put your phone down and take out your ear buds when crossing the street.
- Always use sidewalks whenever possible.
- Make sure you're visible to any vehicles traveling on the roadway by wearing light-colored, reflective clothing.

## **Bike Safety**

- Ride with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Be predictable! Stay in your lane do not weave in and out of traffic.
- Wear bright or reflecting clothes so people can see you, and make sure to have bike lights (especially at night).
- Be careful around parked cars. They could start moving suddenly, or a door could open without warning.
- Stay alert at all times.
- Look both ways for traffic, and obey all traffic laws.
- Always wear a helmet.



## Bus Safety

When getting on or off a bus, remember:

- Don't dart into traffic – walk!
- Obey the stop arm on the bus.
- Pay attention to your surroundings, and look before crossing.

## Rules of the Road for Parents

- Follow your school's "Safe Route to School" program, which should be posted on the district/school website.
- Drop off and pick up your student where it's safe to do so – not where it's convenient.
- Avoid "No Parking" zones. Parking isn't allowed in certain areas because of line-of-sight issues, bus lanes, fire lanes and the safety of the student.
- Be patient and tolerant, and report issues to the school if necessary.
- Stay off of your cell phone
- Look out for bicycles, pedestrians, buses and the like.
- Don't block the crosswalks with your car.
- Talk to your kids about where they walk or bike to and from school.
- Teach your children to cross at locations where crossing guards are posted.



The best way to ensure everyone stays safe is to follow the law. Please remember:

- It's illegal to block a driveway.
- It's illegal to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant and within 20 feet of a crosswalk or stop sign.
- It's illegal to park blocking a sidewalk.
- School Zone speeding tickets carry additional fees and a mandatory court appearance.

All of these laws are there to protect our children.