



Back to School

Safety Tips

Backpack Safety

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Pack light. Pack heavier items closest to the center.
- Always use both shoulder straps.
- Consider a rolling backpack if students must tote heavy items.

Traveling To and From School

School Bus

- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Don't allow running or push and shove games near the bus stop.
- Respect the "Danger Zone" which surrounds all sides of the bus. The "Danger Zone" is ten feet wide on all sides of the bus. Make sure child stands at least 10 feet (4 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus.
- If you drop something by the bus, tell the driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.
- Secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in handrail or door of bus.
- Always cross the street in front of the bus. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

Walking

- Use the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of street, facing oncoming traffic.
- Cross the street at the corner or at a crosswalk if there is one, and obey all traffic signals.
- Walk with an adult until you are at least 10 years old.
- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the street. Look left, right, left again before you cross and keep looking both ways until you reach the other side.
- If you walk when it is dark, wear bright-colored clothing or clothing with reflective material so drivers can see you. A flashlight is a good idea.
- Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they can see you.

Biking

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as traffic.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Wear bright-colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.