

Tips for Parents

In general, children are not ready to cross a street alone until age 10. However, you are the best judge of your child's readiness to walk without an adult. When you feel your child is ready to walk to school alone, make sure to:

- Decide on the best route for your child to take and teach them how to safely cross a street. Walk the route with them at least a few times.
- Teach your child to ask a parent before walking anywhere without them.
- Teach your child to use paths or sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, children should walk as far from cars as possible on the side of the street facing traffic.
- Have your child learn to watch for cars turning or pulling out of driveways.
- Establish a set of rules for your child walking to and from school. Discuss these rules often. Some rules may include staying on sidewalks, following the rules of the road, and using the same route every day.
- Always communicate with your child on who will be picking them up or dropping them off, and communicate the transportation change with the school too! Make sure you and your child have a plan for what conditions warrant them not walking to or home from school—like if it is raining. Have an understood procedure in place for dealing with such situations.
- Teach your child not to accept rides and talk about “stranger-danger.”



Pedestrian Safety

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Pedestrian Safety

Basics for Pedestrian Safety For Kids & Parents



North Kitsap School District

Developed by the City of Poulsbo through a WSDOT Safe Routes to School Grant

Walk Safe!

Street Safety

Obey Traffic Signs



Stop Sign.

Come to a complete stop.



Traffic Signal

Green = Go

Yellow = Stop

Red = Stop

Cross the Street Safely

1. Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
2. Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
3. Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
4. Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
5. Walk, don't run across the street.

Tips for Walking Safely to School

- Walk with a friend, older sibling, or adult when possible. There is safety in numbers!
- Ask your parents to help you pick a safe route to school.
- Stick to the route you picked with your parents.
- When walking near streets, don't push, shove, or chase each other!
- Never hitchhike or take rides from people not arranged by your parents.
- Talk to your parents and teachers about any bullying that may happen during your walk.
- Don't throw anything into the road or at any vehicles.
- Don't cut through private property, like neighbor's lawns.

Be Seen

- Wear brightly covered clothes and reflective gear.
- When it is dark, foggy, or rainy, carry and use a flashlight. This helps you to see the route, but it also helps cars see you!
- Do not cross behind or within 10 feet of the front of a bus or other large motor vehicle because the driver cannot see you.
- Stop at the edges of driveways and

curbs or edges of the street where no curb exists and look for cars before proceeding. If there are cars, make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Listen

- Don't listen to music on headphones- you need to be able to hear while you are walking!

Communicate

Walking to school requires communication and planning! Make sure you have a plan with your parents and the school that covers:

- What route you will use to walk to school.
- What your back-up plan is for days when walking to/from school may not be possible, such as rainy or snowy days. Have a plan for the unexpected!
- If you have a change in your transportation plan for a day, be sure you know who will be picking you up or dropping you off, and that your parents have also told the school about the change.
- Have a time limit for getting to and from school. Communicate with the school to make sure you are arriving and leaving at designated times.
- Make sure to call your parents if any circumstance has changed your plans for walking to or from school.