

WALKING SCHOOL BUS



RESOURCE #10 - PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SKILLS

Pedestrian safety skills should be reviewed or taught to adults and children. Safe walking behaviors can be taught as a parent walks with a child or it may be included as organized training by the school.

Regardless of how it is taught, adults/children should know the following:

1. Always look for cars - drivers are supposed to obey the rules and watch for people walking. Always look left, then right, then left again, then look behind you and in front of you for turning cars. Keep looking until you are sure that there are either no cars coming or that traffic has stopped to allow you to cross.
2. Always follow the walking school bus route. It is the safest route to walk with the fewest and safest streets to cross. Avoid crossing busy or high-speed roads whenever possible.
3. Walk along the street safely. This means:
 - Use sidewalks or paths.
 - If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk as far from the cars as possible and face traffic.
 - Watch for cars turning or pulling out of driveways.
4. Cross at signalized intersections whenever possible.
 - Obey traffic signs and signals.
 - Remember that just because it is your turn to cross does not mean that it is safe to cross. Do not trust that cars will obey the rules or that turning cars will see you.
 - Look for yourself to see if cars are coming. Look left, right and left and then behind you and in front of you for turning cars.
 - Walk, don't run across the street.
 -
5. If you must cross the street at mid block:
 - Stop at the curb and look left, right and left again for traffic.
 - Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing. Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
 - **Safety tip:** Crossing mid block can be dangerous depending on the speed of the traffic and the time of day. Always try to cross at a light, crosswalk or stop sign where there is some control over the traffic.

Pedestrian signals



A steady WALK (walking person) signal means that a pedestrian may start crossing the street (after checking for vehicles.)



A flashing DON'T WALK signal (upraised hand) means that pedestrians should not start crossing the street, but if already in the street, they should finish crossing.



A steady DON'T WALK signal (upraised hand) means that pedestrians should not cross the street.

6. If you must cross between parked cars:

- Stop at the curb and check to see if the cars are running or if anyone is in the driver seat.
- If safe, cross to the edge of the parked cars, and look left, right and left again before crossing.
- **Safety tip:** Crossing mid block and between cars can be dangerous depending on the speed of the traffic and the time of day. Always try to cross at a light, crosswalk or stop sign where there is some control over the traffic.

