

No School Bus? No Problem!

Student Safety on the Way to School : A Toolkit for Parents

Kick off the morning with a walk or bike ride to school!

Walking and biking are great ways for children to get to school safely and develop healthy habits for the rest of their lives. An active commute can help build community in the neighborhood, prevent obesity, and reduce traffic around schools. Children who walk and bike to school also have the opportunity to learn how to navigate their neighborhood safely as skilled, independent pedestrians.

Whether your child is getting ready to start their first walk to school, or they are an expert bicyclist, this toolkit is here to help parents and caregivers get the most out of their child's trip to school!

SAFETY ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL

Walk Maps

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) provides custom walk maps for every Seattle Public School. Maps identify streets with sidewalks, designated school crossings, and other safety features to help parents and students find their safest route to school.

Check out [SDOT's Safe Routes to School webpage](#) to get your walk map!

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school/school-walking-maps>

Crossing Guards

Adult crossing guards are a great way to bring safety to busy intersections during school arrival and departure times. Crossing guard is a paid position, and Seattle Public Schools needs many more guards to help keep kids safe. Contact the [Seattle Public School District](#) to apply.

https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/transportation/employment_opportunities_for_bus_monitors_and_cros/

SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL

Student drop-off and pick-up can cause traffic hazards for walkers and bikers near the school. It is important for families who drive their children to school to foster a safe and comfortable environment for student walkers and bikers by being extra alert and respecting pedestrian space.

- Make sure to follow your school's arrival and departure procedures
- Twenty is Plenty! Vehicles traveling below 20mph cause less serious injuries than faster vehicles
- As a driver, you can help create a community for student walkers by giving pedestrians extra space



INVOLVING THE SCHOOL

Safety Campaigns

Safety and encouragement campaigns are a great way to engage the school community in a collective effort to increase walking and biking to school. The [Where Do I Begin?](#) campaign guide helps parents, volunteers, or school staff start programs such as a Walking School Bus, Bike Train, Pace Car, and other initiatives.

<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SDOT/SRTS/StartingASafeRoutestoSchoolCampaign.pdf>

Free Incentives

School safety champions can request free safety-themed stickers, temporary tattoos, and wristbands as incentives for their walk and bike to school campaign. Visit [SDOT's Safe Routes to School Incentives webpage](#) to place a request.

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school/incentives>

Mini Grants

SDOT's Mini Grant Program provides up to \$1,000 to schools, PTAs, and community groups to encourage walking and biking to school through education and encouragement projects. Apply for a mini grant to support a safety campaign, purchase pedestrian crossing flags, paint an intersection, start a student safety patrol, and many other programs! Learn more on [SDOT's Mini Grant webpage](#).

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school/mini-grants>

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

The Seattle Department of Transportation is always working to make streets safer for children walking and biking to school. The [Seattle Safe Routes to School Engineering Toolkit](#) describes how SDOT improves infrastructure around schools.

<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SDOT/SRTS/SeattleSafeRoutestoSchoolEngineeringToolkit.pdf>

Want to report a dangerous intersection or safety issue? Use the [Find It Fix It](#) app, or fill out a [Service Request Form](#) at Seattle.gov.

<http://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/service-request-form>

King County School Pool

Schools can establish an online carpooling system using King County School Pool. School Pool is a free, safe, and secure carpool matching service that connects you with other parents and caregivers of kids who attend your child's school. Visit the [King County Rideshare webpage](#) to learn how to get started.

<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/van-car/programs/schoolpool/>

Bicycle Racks

Is your school lacking adequate bicycle parking? Request a bicycle rack for your school through [SDOT's Bicycle Program](#).

<https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/bike-program/bike-racks>

Parents or school staff can also reach out to the [Seattle School Traffic Safety Committee](#) for traffic and circulation support at your school

<https://www.seattle.gov/school-traffic-safety-committee>