



## TIPS FOR PARENTS

# WALKING & BIKING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

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Walking and biking is a fun and healthy way to spend time with your children while teaching them skills that can serve them well throughout life. The walk or bike to school is a great time to use these safety tips.

### BE A WALKING/BIKING ROLE MODEL

Children learn through experience. Walking or biking to school with parents or another caregiver is an important way for children to practice crossing real streets and picking safe places to walk or ride. There is no magic age when children are old enough to get to school without an adult. But as a parent, you should decide when your child has the skills and experience to deal with traffic safely without you.

As you walk or bike with your child, remember these safety tips:

- Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection. Be aware of drivers in parked cars that may be getting ready to move.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Cross the street safely:
  - Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
  - Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
  - Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing.
  - Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
  - Walk, don't run across the street.
  - Do not walk/bike between parked cars or buses.

#### **DID YOU KNOW IN PA A BICYCLE IS CONSIDERED A VEHICLE?**

What does that mean in regard to safety? It means you give up your rights as a pedestrian when you ride a bike in the crosswalk. When you peddle across a crosswalk you do not have the right-of-way.

**BUT**, you can have the right-of-way if you hop off and walk your bike across!

### CHOOSE THE SAFEST ROUTE TO SCHOOL

The District provides recommended routes to school, however only **you** know the best route for your child to get to school. Here are some tips to help make that decision.

- Select a route with less traffic and intersections.
- Pick places where there are sidewalks or paths separated from traffic. If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk as far from the motor vehicles as possible and, if possible, on the side of the street facing traffic. On a bike, ride on the right side of the road in a single file line in the same direction as other vehicles and come to a complete stop before crossing.
- Limit the number of street crossings. When available, cross at a location with an adult school crossing guard. Inform your child where they are and what they do to help children.
- Avoid crossing busy or high-speed streets.
- Cross at corners and use crosswalks whenever possible.