



Back to school:

Get to School on the Safe Side of the Street

Reminder that the speed limit in a school zone in Washington state (unless otherwise posted) is 20 MPH, if lights are offered and are flashing—go 20 MPH! Also—be sure you're stopping for all pedestrians at crosswalks.

With more students than ever walking to school, Safety Sessions would like to offer some pedestrian and bicycle safety tips for your children:

- Before your school begins, walk the routes your children will walk or bike to school to point out potential dangers and safe havens if they need help.
- Teach your children to be wary of strangers and to report any suspicious contacts to a trusted adult or 911. It's never ok to accept a ride without parent's permission—even from people who they know.
- Since there is safety in numbers, urge your children to walk or bike with a buddy.
- Insist that your children wear bike helmets and teach them the bicycle rules of the road. (Some recreation centers or organizations offer free or reduced rate child-size helmets)
- Make sure your child's bike is safe; check the brakes, reflectors, and chain guard or take it to a bike shop for a checkup.
- Encourage your children to be highly visible by wearing bright, light-colored clothing.
- Urge your children to walk against traffic and ride bikes with the traffic whenever possible.
- Teach your children to cross streets only at marked crosswalks and to watch for turning vehicles. They should make eye contact with drivers before stepping out and look both ways.



- It's not safe to wear headphones because you may be unable to hear approaching vehicles.
- Children under 10 should cross the street with an adult or older child.
- Teach children to look around parked cars or other objects blocking their view before they cross the street.

We highly encourage parents to work together to form a “WALKING SCHOOL BUS” for their children. A WALKING SCHOOL BUS is a group of children walking to school accompanied by one or more adults.