

WALKING TO SCHOOL

Myth: A green light means that it's safe to cross the street.

Fact: A green light means that you stop and search for cars. Before you step off the curb, look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT, and if it is safe to do so, cross and keep looking left and right as you do so.

Myth: You are protected in a crosswalk.

Fact: You may cross at a crosswalk, but before you do, you must look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT for cars, and keep looking as you cross.

Myth: If you see the driver the driver sees you.

Fact: The driver may not see you. Make certain the driver sees you and stops before you cross in front of the car. Try to make eye contact with the driver.

Myth: The driver will stop if you are in a crosswalk or at a green light.

Fact: The driver may not see you. The driver's view may be blocked. The driver may run the traffic light illegally, or make a turn without looking for pedestrians.

Walking is free, convenient, enjoyable, and does not require special equipment or training. Walking is a great way for kids to be active. There are plenty of great reasons to have our children walk to school: less traffic, safer streets, cleaner air—but the best is that children will become healthier. Obesity rates have doubled among children in the past twenty years, the same time period that traffic has risen at schools with children being driven by their parents.

Through recent reports, we have discovered that 37% of children attending SAI SD live within 1 mile of their school. As a result of this, they are considered to be in the "walk zone." If your child walks to school, we would like to offer some **Safety Tips** that you, as a parent, can use to prepare you child for the upcoming school year.

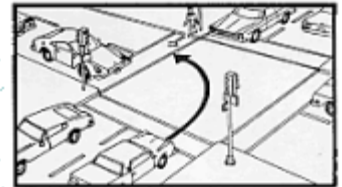
1. Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk in the road, always walk facing the traffic, so you can see any car coming towards you.
2. Dress to be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime.
3. Cross only at corners or crosswalks. Stop at the curb or edge of the road, look Left-Right-Left before you step into the street. Continue to do this until no cars are coming.
4. If a car is parked where you are crossing, check to make sure there is not a driver in the car. Step to the edge of the car and look left-right-left until no cars are coming. Keep looking for cars while you are crossing, and remember to walk not run.
5. When looking for cars, remember to look for signs that a car is about to move; rear lights, exhaust smoke, sounds of a motor, wheels turning, or a driver sitting in the car.
6. Always choose a route to school that is safe for your child. Make sure your child is aware of safe places they can go if they have trouble, or are approached by strangers.

Pre-school Children are often unaware of the dangers involved in walking to school. Parents should accompany these students to and from school to make sure they are taught properly their first few years of school. Teach them by explaining the proper way to be a safe pedestrian, and show them by abiding by the guidelines we have offered to you.

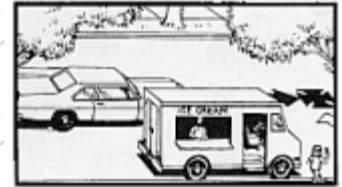
Common Crash Situations



Child darting out into street at corner or mid-block



Vehicle turning into path of child



Child hidden by ice cream truck



Child hidden by bus and driver does not stop



Vehicle backing up in roadway, driveway, or parking lot

