

## Tips For Parents

- Go over the rules with your children.
- If your children can't read yet, read the rules to them. Make sure they understand them. Tell them what will happen if they break the rules.
- Develop your own best route.
- Scout the area between your home and the school, looking for crossing guards, sidewalks, visibility, and traffic conditions. Check with your neighbors to see if your children might walk or ride with a partner.
- Take a test ride or walk with your children.
- Before school starts, walk with your children from your home to the school and back again. Watch to see that they know the route. Make sure they follow the rules. Follow them yourself.



## Rules for Walkers

- 1** Walk on the sidewalk. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- 2** Pay attention to the crossing guard. Don't start playing while you're waiting for the guard to tell you it's safe to cross.
- 3** Before crossing a street, look in all directions for cars, bikes, and motorcycles.
- 4** Never cross the street between parked cars. Drivers can't see you.
- 5** Stand on the curb, not in the street, when waiting to cross the street.
- 6** Cross the street at intersections where drivers can see you and are expecting walkers.
- 7** Always use the crosswalk when there is one, but remember that painted lines cannot force drivers to stop.
- 8** Do not take rides from strangers.
- 9** Go straight home from school using the same route every day. Don't stop at someone else's house without your parents' permission.

## Rules for Bike Riders

- 1** Obey all traffic signs and rules. Know and use hand signals.
- 2** Always wear a bike helmet.
- 3** Ride on the sidewalk. If there isn't a sidewalk, ride on the right side of the street, with traffic.
- 4** Be sure the road is clear before entering traffic. Walk your bike across busy intersections.
- 5** Always ride single file. Watch for opening car doors and drainage grates.
- 6** Don't give anyone a ride on your bike.
- 7** Let walkers have the right-of-way.



## Resources

### What about Motorized Scooters?

It is illegal to ride an electric or gas-powered scooter on City streets or sidewalks.

### Where can I find more info about safe riding and walking?

The Texas Department of Transportation has a good child-oriented website at [www.dot.state.tx.us/kidsonly/safetypg/safety.html](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/kidsonly/safetypg/safety.html).

### Other Traffic Safety Information Brochures Available

- Speed Zones and Speed Bumps
- Marked Crosswalks
- Pedestrian Signals
- Stop Signs and Traffic Signals
- Suggested School Routes
- Bicycles & Vehicles - Share the Road
- Safe Streets Program

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# WALK TO SCHOOL SAFELY



Transportation Division  
City of Plano, Texas