

New York City Department of Transportation

Street Safety Tips for School Children

Make each trip a safe one! Together we can keep our children safe as they travel to and from school.

If you're a **DRIVER**:

- Follow the speed limit.
- Be alert for children in the school zones – look for SCHOOL X-ING markings on the pavement and fluorescent yellow-green signs with children walking indicate school crosswalks.
- Set a good example for children. If you park opposite the school, cross the street with care. Stop at the curb, look left-right-left before crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Reduce traffic congestion and keep children visible. Do not double-park, stop in crosswalks, or interfere with school buses when you drop off or pick up your child.

If your child **WALKS TO SCHOOL**:

- Discuss the safest route to and from school. Use DOT's School Safety Maps to plan your route. (www.nyc.gov/saferoutes)
- Teach children to stop, look and listen before crossing, even if the pedestrian signal shows the white figure walking.
- When crossing, children should walk, not run, and should keep scanning for turning vehicles while crossing.
- Talk about why it is safer to cross at school crosswalks. The ladder-striped school crosswalks make crosswalks more visible to drivers and help make the intersection safer.

If you child **TAKES THE BUS**:

- Use the safety tips above to get your children safely to and from the bus stop.
- Encourage children to leave home early enough to avoid running to catch the bus
- Teach children to wait for the bus on the side-walk, not in the street.
- Teach children to stay out of the bus driver's blind spots, where they would be hidden from view and more vulnerable.
- Tell your children to be sure they can see the bus driver's face before beginning to cross, and to avoid walking behind the bus or close to its wheels or sides.
- The safest way for children to cross the street after getting off the bus is to walk at least 10 steps away from the bus (on the sidewalk) before crossing.
- Explain to children that if they drop anything under or in front of the bus, they should tell the bus driver and not reach for it on their own.



Visit www.nyc.gov/saferoutes for more information and to sign up for DOT email alerts. You can also call 311.



Safety Tools in the Traffic Environment



School Crosswalks:
Ladder-striped crosswalks installed in school zones where school children are directed to cross. The stripes make the crosswalks more visible to drivers, making them more alert when approaching these crosswalks.



Regular pedestrian crosswalk:
The area of the roadway, bounded by parallel white lines, where pedestrians are directed to cross.



Advance warning sign:
Located in areas around schools where children are directed to walk and cross streets. The fluorescent yellow-green signs warn drivers to proceed with caution.



Traffic Signal/Pedestrian Signal: The red, yellow and green lights, as well as the pedestrian signals (with the symbolic **Walking Figure=WALK** and **Raised Hand=DON'T WALK**), are designed to let people in vehicles and on foot know who has the right-of-way. Traffic signals help manage traffic flow on main and cross streets, and help pedestrians cross an intersection safely.



All-way stop:
Requires vehicles approaching from all directions to stop. The signs act to reduce conflicts between vehicles, prevent crashes and control traffic.



Traffic flow:
The direction in which traffic moves. **ONE WAY** signs indicate streets where vehicles are allowed to travel in one direction only.



Speed reducer:
Raised "bump" placed across residential streets, designed to calm (or slow) traffic in residential areas and near schools.