

# SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**



Walking is fun, but you need to be safe while doing it. Follow these tips to make sure you get to and from school without any problems.

## Safety First!

Choose the safest route, looking for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings. Use sidewalks whenever they are available. Where there are no sidewalks, keep to the left and walk facing traffic. Do not text or talk on cell phones while walking and/or crossing the street. Watch out for cars and trucks at every driveway and intersection on your walk to school. Look for drivers in parked cars. They may be getting ready to move. Obey traffic signs, signals and adult school crossing guards. If walking at night wear light colored clothing and use reflective tape so that drivers will see you.

## Making Smart Decisions

Walk with an adult until you are 10 years old AND feel safe doing so. Discuss your route with your parents and stick to it. Don't let friends talk you into shortcuts that are more dangerous. When you are near the street, don't push, shove, or chase each other. NEVER run into the street to get a ball or toy. Talk to your parents and teacher about any bullying that may happen during your walk.

## WALKING TO SCHOOL SAFELY TIPS FOR PARENTS AND KIDS...



### Crossing the Road

- Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
- Stop at the curb or edge of road before crossing the street.
- Listen and look for traffic to the left, to the right, and to the left again.
- Wait until the street is clear.
- Keep looking until you've crossed the street safely.

### Walk Together

Walk in groups, as there is safety in numbers. Groups are more likely to be seen by drivers. Walking is great exercise and a nice way to spend time together. Walk with a friend or family member when possible. In neighborhoods with higher levels of traffic, consider starting a "walking school bus," in which an adult accompanies a group of neighborhood children walking to school.

To learn more about how to set up a SRTS program, contact  
Connecticut SRTS  
[info@walkitbikeitct.org](mailto:info@walkitbikeitct.org) or visit the following websites:  
[www.walkitbikeitct.org](http://www.walkitbikeitct.org) [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)