

# POLICY

[District Name] School Walking Policy

Walking is among the best ways to promote student well-being. The District supports walking as transportation as long as students live within walking distance and there are adequate facilities. Walking provides physical activity, decreases congestion and pollution, and provides pedestrian skills and healthy habits that will last a lifetime. Parents are discouraged from driving children to school, particularly since motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among school-age children. The District supports students' participation in Safe Routes to School programs.

The District regards walking to school by students as an assumption of responsibility by students and their parents – a responsibility in the care of property, in the observation of safety rules, and in the display of courtesy and consideration towards others. The District assumes no liability for injuries occurring outside school property.

The District strongly recommends that students and their parents follow recommended walking safety guidelines and always use their common sense and good judgment. If crossing guards are available, students and parents should cross where crossing guards are located. Students should use crosswalks. A crosswalk is an extension of the road, sidewalk, curb or edge of the shoulder at an intersection. Crosswalks may be either marked with painted stripes or unmarked. School employees and parents/caregivers are role models for children, and older children should be models for younger children. Role models have a responsibility to follow the laws and rules for safe walking, bicycling and driving to ensure the safety of all road users - pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> grade and below:**

It is recommended that students in the third grade and below walk with adult supervision. Students who walk to school should use sidewalks, paths and/or trails. Students should cross where crossing guards are located and within painted crosswalks where present. All pedestrians should cross streets only at corners or within painted crosswalks, after looking both ways.

### **4<sup>th</sup> grade and above:**

It is recommended that students walk in groups or with adult supervision. If crossing guards are available, students and parents should cross where crossing guards are located. Students should cross within painted crosswalks where present. All pedestrians should cross streets only at corners or within painted crosswalks, after looking both ways.

The District expects parents and guardians to make students aware of the following safety tips:

1. If there is a crosswalk, use it. (N.J. state law Title 39:4-36)
2. Before crossing, look left, right, and left again to make sure the road is clear. Continue looking while you cross and listen for traffic.
3. Do not cross the street from between parked cars.
4. If you are walking at dawn, dusk or after dark, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.

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Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We have read and understood this policy and give our permission for our child (named above) to walk to and from school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date \_\_\_\_\_