

# MODEL AND PRACTICE SAFE PEDESTRIAN SKILLS



**1. Walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk** away from the curb or roadway. This way you are less exposed to vehicles.

**2. If there is no sidewalk, always walk facing traffic** using the outside edge or shoulder of the roadway so you can see oncoming vehicles and drivers can see you.

**3. Stay away from the road edge or curb** while waiting at an intersection to cross the road. Take one giant step back to ensure you are well away from vehicles turning or passing close by the sidewalk.

**4. Dress to be seen.** Bright and fluorescent clothing make it easier for drivers to see you in daytime. Use reflective material for when vehicle lights are in use at dawn, dusk, and in daytime poor weather. Strips can be placed on clothing and backpacks. Dangle tags that move make you even more visible to drivers.

**5. Steps to crossing safely:**  
**STOP** before stepping onto a road, driveway or lane. Stay away from the road edge.

**LOOK** all directions, left-right-left and over your shoulder for vehicles that may be turning.

**LISTEN** for approaching vehicles that aren't visible, but could be coming from a driveway, around a corner or over a hill.

**MAKE EYE CONTACT** with drivers every time. Pedestrians often think if they can see the driver, the driver can see them, but bad weather in particular can obscure vision.

**CHECK** that a vehicle has stopped before crossing in front of it.

**KEEP LOOKING** both ways and ensure approaching vehicles stop as you cross multi-lane roads. Another vehicle may pass or go around a stopped one.

**OBEY** all traffic signs, the school safety patrol and school bus driver.

**WAIT** after stepping down from a transit bus, until the bus has left the stop.

**WALK, DON'T RUN**, across a street, driveway or lane.

**6. Remove at least one ear piece of your portable music player** when crossing the street, or you won't be able to hear signs of danger.

**7. Don't cross mid-block** (Don't jaywalk). Cross only at corners or crosswalks.

**8. Parked vehicles can be dangerous** and may move without warning. An approaching driver may not see you between parked vehicles, check all around the parked vehicle before crossing.

**9. Parking lots require your special attention.** Drivers are often distracted. You must stay well back and expect that vehicles may back up or move without warning.

**10. Rules for railway crossings:**  
**Don't play around railway crossings.** These are danger zones.

**Know that trains always have the right of way.** They do not slow down at crossings like vehicles do. Use designated railway crossings and obey all signals and signs.

**Wait until a train passes completely before crossing the tracks.** Watch for more than one train, and check if a train is coming from the opposite direction.

**Look left-right-left before crossing.** Be extra careful and watch your step when crossing railway tracks.



## [www.hastebc.org](http://www.hastebc.org)

HASTE is an online resource and networking centre that helps with every aspect of your walking school bus and bicycle train planned for your school. Go to:

### > **Take Action > Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train**

Follow each link listed (as below) for details.

- > **What is a Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train**
- > **Why Organize a Walking School Bus or Bicycle Train**
- > **Why use HASTE**
- > **Workshops and Webinars**
- > **Traffic Safety Considerations**

Pedestrian Safety Visit [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com) > **Geared 2 Youth > For educators**

*where teachers can order curriculum resources online:*

*Road Sense Kids Passport to Road Safety K-3, and Road Sense Kids Going Places 4-7*

Public Transit for Kids

Bike Safety

Small Wheels Safety

Driver Safety Awareness

- > **How to Organize a Walking School Bus**
- > **How to Organize a Bicycle Train**
- > **Route Planning for Safety**

A Walking School Bus follows a walking route that is safe (in terms of traffic safety and personal security) and comfortable for pedestrians. This must be planned whether the bus begins from individual children's homes, or from a central location where families can meet and/or where drivers can safely stop to drop off and pick up students. A Best Route for pedestrians will often differ from a cycling route.

- > **Walking/Cycling Route Mapping Tool**

Upon selecting your school, an area map displays the school neighbourhood to approximately 1km on each side of the school. An air photo, street map, or a combination of the two, is displayed and routes under consideration can be plotted online. These can be printed for on-the-ground assessment. Once a final Best Route is determined, a street map featuring your custom Walking School Bus route, or routes, can be printed.

- > **Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train Communication Tools**

Open and clear communication of expectations help ensure your walking school bus will be successful. Helpful forms are:

- Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train: Family Agreement Form
- Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train: Leader's Form
- Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train: Letter for teachers
- Walking School Bus/Bicycle Train: Registration/Consent Form

### > **Take Action > MyTravel: Emissions Calculator and Tracking**

MyTravel is a suite of tools to help students and educators calculate, track and reduce school-related transportation emissions. The MyTravel Calculator is an easy to use online tool for individuals and groups to measure the greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) arising from their travel to and from school.

Thank you for the assistance of the  
Directorate of Agencies for School  
Health (DASH) BC in the  
administration and distribution of the  
Walking School Bus and  
Bicycle Train supplies and equipment  
[www.dashbc.org](http://www.dashbc.org)