

# STAYING SAFE



## While Walking To/From School

- Students should always use **Safe Walking Routes** established by the school. These routes have been specifically designed to help students get to and from school as safely as possible with minimal road crossings. If you don't know your school's Safe Walking Routes, inquire with the main office.
- Always walk in **large groups**. Consider organizing a school walking group with neighbors. If available, parents can take turns chaperoning the group to and from school. Students should never walk alone.
- Walk the route with your child and **identify homes and businesses** that he/she can turn to if there is a problem.
- Have your child notify you or another trusted adult if they **arrive home alone**. Tell them to keep the door locked and to not tell strangers that they are home alone.
- Consider developing a private **family 'code word'** that can be used for situations when you are away from your children. If approached by a stranger who claims they know your family, your child can test if the individual knows the family code word. This tactic usually frightens away would-be abductors.
- Students should always **use crosswalks and follow the directions of crossing guards**. Vehicles are quick, and drivers are not always vigilant in looking out for school children.
- Tell your child to **run away as quickly as possible** and yell, "HELP!" very loudly if a stranger is following on foot. If the stranger is following in a car, tell them they need to turn around and go in the other direction. Students should clearly and loudly say, "NO!" if a stranger offers them a ride in a vehicle. Ensure your child knows which homes and businesses they can use if they need help.
- Children should **never leave school with a stranger**, nor should they accept anything from those they don't know. If a stranger is trying to converse with your child, they should run away and seek help.