

How will my child get to school?



When you were young, you most likely walked to school or took a bus. Approximately 50% of children, then, walked or bicycled to school. **Today, only 15% of children walk or bicycle to school.** Let's grow that feeling of community in our neighborhood schools by trying to walk to school at least once a week. This helps create a safer traffic situation near the school, by having less cars. Did you know that 20% of morning traffic is parents or caregivers taking their children to school.

Newton Safe Routes to School

The case for walking

1. **Most elementary children live close** to their schools. 85% live within a mile. Those that live further or in a safety zone qualify for **bus service** and can be "bus heroes."
2. Walking provides a great opportunity to get **exercise and fresh air**. Children arrive at school better prepared to learn.
3. Physical activity helps increase academic achievement.
4. Walking to school provides young children an opportunity to learn **pedestrian skills**. Skills that will last them a lifetime.
5. Walking is an all season activity. Only the clothes change.
6. It is a *polar bear* to find a parking space when there is snow on the ground. Walking to school in snowy weather is refreshing and stimulating.
7. Walking gives children a **sense of accomplishment and independence** and extra social time with friends.

How to get on board

1. Walk, every day, most days, any day you can. **Walking can be faster than driving.** You do not get stuck in traffic and do not have to find a parking space.
2. Get together with a neighbor to **share the walk** – walking buddies. Get a bunch of neighbors together - walking school bus.
3. Feel like you live too far? Ease into it, **drive part way**, walk the rest. **Try car pooling**.
4. Walk on the city- wide **Go Green, Wear Green Days** – the last Friday of every month! Make it a family event. Rethink everyone's commute that day.
5. If you live on the bus route, take it and your child is a "**bus hero**".

Thinking about driving?
Learn the rules!





*International Walk to
School Day
October*

*Massachusetts Walk to
School Day
May*



Join your community,
far and near, and plan
events for these special
walking days!

*Drop off and pick up should be in
the BLUE ZONE or LIVE PARKING
AREA ONLY.*

- Children must get out of & into the car by themselves, onto the sidewalk
- Drivers never get out of the car
- **Don't park in the blue zone or Live Parking area**, this is for a quick pick up or drop off
- Double parking, even to quickly pick up a child, creates backups
- Turn off your engine, it's the law, making it **illegal to idle a car within 100ft of a school**
- **Parking in a yellow zone is illegal**
- **Keep the paths for buses clear**; when the bus is blocked, all traffic comes to a halt
- Make certain children know pick-up plans
- Older children can utilize alternative pick up zones away from school
- If these options will not work for you or your child, please take the time to park.
- Be a great role model, follow the rules



Help maintain a smooth traffic flow

- **No U-turns** in front of the school, it is illegal and unsafe
 - Keep children on sidewalks safe, **don't turn around in driveways**. Instead, plan your route to eliminate need to turn around
 - **Jaywalking is dangerous**, use crosswalk and crossing guards. Make safe habits for life!
 - Children get in cars from the sidewalk, not street side.
- Park responsibly and legally
- Obey "No Parking Signs"
 - Don't park up on grass or within 5 ft. of driveways
 - Staff parking lot is off-limits to all parent cars
 - Teach your children and caretakers the rules
 - Be a great role model, follow the rules