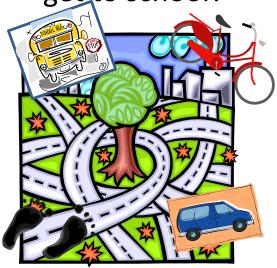
How will my child get to school?



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.

The case for walking

- 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."
- 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** <u>walking</u> <u>buddies</u>. Get a bunch of neighbors together <u>walking</u> 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".







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 mode, follow the rules

Newton Safe Routes to School