

# help make school zones safer

## Your commute matters!

When you decide not to drive door-to-door, you support traffic safety for all road users by easing traffic congestion and parking demand in the school zone during morning and afternoon peaks.

## When you need to drive, consider:

- Finding an alternative drop off/pick up site a block or two away where you can safely park and walk to school.
- Driving part-way and meeting up with your school commute buddies to walk, bike or roll the rest of the way together.
- Inviting others to join you. There's safety (and sustainability) in numbers!

# crossing basics

Choose a spot to cross with a long, clear view in both directions. When possible, choose to cross the road at marked crosswalks or traffic signals.

**STOP** One big step back from the curb or shoulder. Wait a safe distance from edge of the road.

**LOOK** Left and right a few times for approaching traffic (vehicles, bikes, etc.).

**LISTEN** Remove headphones and pause your phone or text conversation so you can hear traffic.

**THINK** About whether it is safe to cross - when the road is clear or all traffic has stopped. Make eye contact with drivers and cyclists.

**CROSS** When the roadway is clear, start crossing. Keep looking and listening for approaching traffic while you cross.

# additional information

## What is the legal minimum age for children to walk, bike, roll or take public transit to/from school without adult accompaniment?

There is no legal minimum age for children to be left unsupervised in British Columbia. Canada Safety Council guidelines recommend that children under the age of 10 not be left alone.

Parents and caregivers should consider the capabilities of their child(ren) to determine when they are able to safely navigate roadways and intersections and access public transit.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to build the capacity of their child(ren) and assess their readiness to use active and sustainable transportation without an adult.



**did you know?**  
Among the top dangerous driving behaviours in B.C. school zones are:

- Speeding
- Distracted driving
- Illegal parking/stopping
- Double parking
- Ignoring or rolling through stop signs
- Stopping in no stopping/no parking zones
- Making U-turns and/or 3-point turns
- Failing to obey crossing guards
- Children exiting vehicles on the traffic side

[www.crd.ca/ready](http://www.crd.ca/ready)  
[transportation@crd.bc.ca](mailto:transportation@crd.bc.ca)



# school commute buddies



Walking, biking or rolling to school is a great opportunity for youth to get fresh air, have fun, exercise and get to know their neighbourhood better.

There's safety in numbers!  
Meet up with friends and neighbours to walk, bike, roll or bus together.



## plan your route

Selecting your safest route can be simple or complex, depending on the location and distance between your home and school.

**It is important to:**

### 1. Prioritize your safety.

Choose sidewalks, paths or trails where possible, even if that means the trip will take a bit longer. If you're bussing, wait at designated bus stops a safe distance away from the road.

### 2. Determine where you will cross streets.

Choose routes with the fewest and safest street crossings. For example, cross where there is a crossing guard, crosswalk or traffic light and avoid busy, high-speed or multi-lane roads where possible.

### 3. Check in regularly.

Have conversations with your parents or caregivers about your experiences and make adjustments as needed to optimize your safety and comfort.



## did you know?

Provincial law stipulates:

- Single rider only on e-kick scooters (rider must not carry any passengers).
- Parents/caregivers of youth below the minimum age must not knowingly let them ride an e-bike or e-kick scooter.

## how to be a school commute buddy

Drivers have a responsibility to obey the law and watch for pedestrians and cyclists, but you can't always count on them to keep you safe.

**Here's how you can be a responsible road, sidewalk and trail user:**

### BE INFORMED

- Learn, understand and obey the rules of the road, trails, traffic signals and signs.
- Keep up to date with the latest safety regulations (e.g., helmets are required; you must be aged 16+ to ride an e-kick scooter or a *standard* e-bike; 14+ to ride a *light* e-bike).

### BE ALERT

- Be aware of your surroundings and always look out for vehicles and other road users.
- Be careful at intersections and make eye contact with fellow road, sidewalk and trail users.
- Listening to music or using your phone are dangerous distractions that make it hard to hear or notice approaching traffic when you are walking, cycling or rolling.

### BE VISIBLE

- Wear light, bright and/or reflective materials. Add lights and reflectors to your gear.
- Where possible, stay on sidewalks and pathways. When there is no sidewalk, walk single file facing traffic so you can see approaching vehicles and they can see you.

### BE PREDICTABLE

- Cross at traffic lights, crosswalks or with crossing guards whenever possible.
- Communicate your intentions using your voice, hand signals, eye contact, lights and bells.

### BE COURTEOUS

- Safely share roads, sidewalks and trails: keep to the right, yield to others, mind your speed, alert others before passing, keep dogs on leash and respect the environment.
- Show mutual respect to fellow road, sidewalk and trail users and be kind.