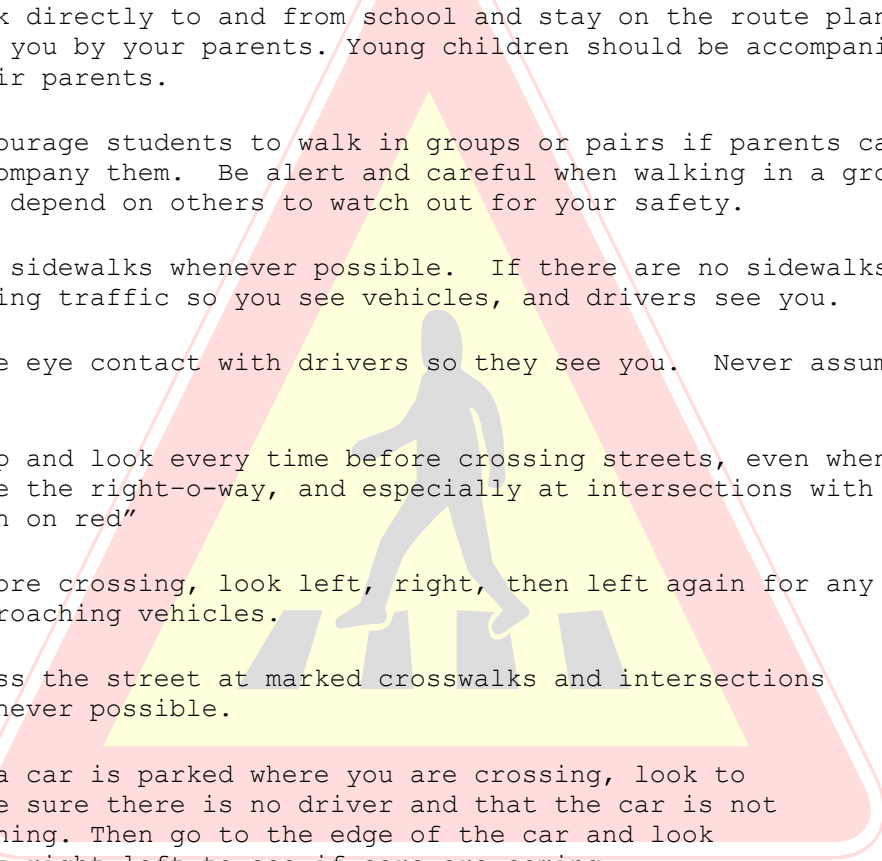


FACT SHEET SAF-27- WALK SMART

School is an exciting place. It's where you learn new things and make good friends. School should also be a safe place. The first rule of school safety is about getting to school. If you walk to school, your parents can help you choose a safe path to take when you walk. Once you know the way, stick to it. Shortcuts may sound like a good idea, but they can be dangerous.

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- Walk directly to and from school and stay on the route planned for you by your parents. Young children should be accompanied by their parents.
 - Encourage students to walk in groups or pairs if parents can't accompany them. Be alert and careful when walking in a group, do not depend on others to watch out for your safety.
 - Use sidewalks whenever possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic so you see vehicles, and drivers see you.
 - Make eye contact with drivers so they see you. Never assume they do.
 - Stop and look every time before crossing streets, even when you have the right-of-way, and especially at intersections with "right turn on red"
 - Before crossing, look left, right, then left again for any approaching vehicles.
 - Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections whenever possible.
 - If a car is parked where you are crossing, look to Make sure there is no driver and that the car is not Running. Then go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left to see if cars are coming.
 - Use pedestrian pushbuttons to activate/extend the walk signal.
 - Begin crossing the street on "Walk" signal. Never begin crossing on a solid or flashing "Don't Walk".
 - Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with light-colored or reflective clothing.
 - Never talk to strangers or accept rides from people you do not know. If a stranger offers you a ride, report the incident at once to your parents and your teacher.
 - Obey instructions of police officers, crossing guards, and safety patrols.