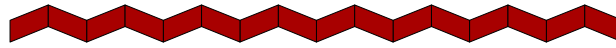




Bicycle Riding to School



Office of Safety and Security Fact Sheet

In an effort to promote physical fitness and develop a sense of independence, parents of our students may wish to have their child ride a bicycle to school. This parental decision is not subject to review by the principal.

Please note that school administrators do not have “portal to portal” responsibility for students while they are on their way to and from school. Virginia Code § 22.1-78 does authorize the School Board to have “portal to portal” authority for student discipline issues. However, administrators should take into consideration the following guidelines when they have students that bicycle to and from school.

- Does the school have a bicycle rack to lock bicycles to? (The Office of Safety and Security will install a bike rack if the school does not have one). Bicycles should not be locked to trees, fences, or light poles. Bicycles should not be left unlocked when unattended as FCPS does not take responsibility for student’s personal property.
- Students should walk their bicycles on school property.
- Can the student enter the school property and walk safely to the bike rack without crossing the motor vehicle traffic flow without assistance.

The decision of whether a student is capable of riding their bicycle to school should be left up to the parent. Parents should consider;

- Their child’s age, maturity level, and physical condition.
- Has the child demonstrated proficiency riding a bike?
- Determine the riding route to school. They should also discuss alternate routes in the event the primary route is inaccessible.

If the student does ride a bicycle to school they should consider the following guidelines.

- Students should ride their bicycle on the sidewalk when available. Stay to the right side of the sidewalk and watch for pedestrians.
- In the absence of sidewalks ride as far to the right side of the road as possible, going with the flow of traffic.
- When traveling in groups ride in single file.
- Wear a UL listed bicycle helmet. This is required by law for students 16 years of age and younger.
- Obey traffic laws. Bicyclists should stop at stop signs, red traffic signals, etc.
- Obey instructions of police officers, crossing guards, and safety patrols.
- Use hand signals so that other bicyclist and motor vehicle operators know your intentions.
- Utilize proper safety equipment
 - Horn or bell
 - Headlight or reflectors
 - Light colored or reflective clothing

If you need assistance, call the Office of Safety and Security at 571-423-2010.