

Pedestrian Safety Lessons

Adaption for Middle School Aged Students (Grades 6-8)



Lesson 1: Walking Safely Near Traffic

- Discuss [Rights and Responsibilities of Drivers, Bicyclists and Pedestrians](#) in South Carolina.
- Hold a group discussion on where students currently walk/bicycle and where they would like to walk. Discuss whether the students feel this situation is safe versus unsafe and brainstorm solutions.
- Discuss bicycling and walking levels in the United States. Find out how SC ranks among others states using this [fact sheet](#). Debate whether there is a correlation between **high** bicycling and walking levels and **low** bicycle/pedestrian fatality rates.
- Address the [environmental and health benefits](#) of walking safely.
- Have students interview a grandparent or senior about how they traveled to school.



Lesson 2: Crossing Streets Safely

- Lead group discussion about [what affects a driver's ability to drive safely around pedestrians](#).
- Lead group discussion on [personal responsibility as a pedestrian](#) and identify ways to decrease risk of injury while walking.
- Discuss distractions while walking and have students review this [study](#).

Lesson 3: Crossing Intersections Safely

- Take field measurements to determine distances at an example intersection.
- Go over [Traffic signs and signals](#) and take this practice [road sign quiz](#).
- Watch this [five minute video](#) and further discuss crossing scenarios.
- Analyze/Observe all intersections surrounding the school campus and brainstorm possible safety improvements (use online Google maps or go outside and observe).

Lesson 4: Parking Lot Safety

- Discuss the importance of [seat belt safety](#) and create a school wide survey to poll seat belt usage.
- Develop a map of the school grounds showing entry points and assess your school's arrival and dismissal procedures.

Lesson 5: Bus Safety

- Allow students to sit in the driver's seat on a school bus to assess blind spots/danger zones.
- If public transportation is available, go for a field trip and practice bus safety skills.
- If a field trip is not possible, have students plan a day's travel utilizing the local public bus route map and schedule.

QUESTIONS?
We are here to help.

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Ideas For all Lessons:

Take a Supervised, Planned Walk Around School/Neighborhood

- Utilize the [Walkability Checklist for Youth](#) during the walk. Utilize technology, digital cameras, and GPS/GIS equipment when available. Create a spreadsheet or presentation of the walk findings and present or draft a letter explaining the findings to community experts.

Have the students create informational brochures on any of the pedestrian safety topics above.

- Invite guest speakers to present to the students. Bus drivers, Police officers, School Resource Office, City/Town Planners, Local bike club/shop, avid community cyclist.

Discuss the importance of modeling safe pedestrian behaviors to younger students.

- Line-up opportunities for your students to TEACH the NHTSA curriculum to your feeder elementary school students.

Create and analyze safe walking routes on a map of the areas surrounding your school utilizing the [Walkbiketoschool.org Mapping Tool](#) or [Fire Up Your Feet Mapping Exercise](#).

Check out [More Tips to Engage Middle Schoolers](#).

Notes when utilizing the NHTSA Pedestrian Safety Curriculum:

- A fifth grade lesson may still be applicable to an older student due to lack of pedestrian safety knowledge.
- Utilize pre and post assessment in the 4th and 5th grade lessons to determine which parts of lesson to focus on. Also take this [quiz](#) for ages 10-14 year old students.



For more education resources, visit www.SCsaferoutes.org under the Resources tab