

Best Route to School

Safety Experts at AAA have developed 11 rules that help parents and children determine Best Route to School. Use the following tips to aid AAA School Safety Patrols in the promotion of safe walking practices to fellow students:

- *Walk on sidewalks:* Watch out for cars pulling into, and backing out of driveways.
- *Walk on the left facing traffic if there are no sidewalks:* Staying to the left allows you to watch oncoming traffic and get out of the way if necessary.
- *Cross only at corners:* Avoid the dangerous practice of “jaywalking.” Cross at an intersection controlled by a traffic light wherever possible.
- *Stop and look all ways before crossing:* If there’s no traffic light, wait until oncoming cars are at least a block away before crossing.
- *Watch for turning cars:* Children sometimes forget to look and unintentionally walk into the side of a turning vehicle.
- *Continue to look left, right and left again as you cross:* It’s easy to miss an oncoming car.
- *Never cross between parked cars:* It’s almost impossible for drivers to see youngsters who enter the roadway from between parked cars.
- *Play away from traffic?* Playgrounds, schoolyards and your own backyard are the safest places to play.
- *Be especially alert in back weather:* Rain, snow, fog and even umbrellas can obstruct vision. Also drivers may be unable to stop quickly. Children should wear bright colored and retro-reflective clothing.
- *Obey police, adult crossing guards, AAA Safety Patrol members, and traffic signals.* These “safety guardians” can greatly enhance a child’s safety when going to and from school
- *Walk your bike on school property during school hours 8:00-2:40.*

Taken from the AAA School Safety Patrol Operations Manual and Mr. Howard.