



Back-to-School STREET SAFETY TIPS

Keeping everyone safe on the City's streets is a top priority. With a new school year beginning, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the University of Miami WalkSafe program offer the following tips to increase safety on our streets. Let's start the school year off by choosing to put safety first and respectfully sharing our streets to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries to ZERO, which is the goal of Vision Zero Fort Lauderdale. Remember, your choices add up to zero; your choices save lives.

GENERAL TIPS

- Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- Make eye contact with drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Leave 10 minutes early to avoid rushing. This will help avoid crashes, injuries, and fatalities.
- Be alert. Never text or wear headphones while driving, walking, or riding.

DRIVING TIPS

- Slow down!
- Pay attention and never drive distracted or under the influence.
- Watch for school buses and stop for them when their red lights are flashing. Never try to pass them.
- Be respectful. Never honk at drivers who are yielding to pedestrians.
- Give pedestrians and bicyclists some extra space.
- Drop kids off in an area where they don't have to cross the street.
- Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road.

SCHOOL ZONES AND CROSSWALK TIPS

- Stop at crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians and look before turning right.
- Obey all speed limit signs and signals in and around school zones. Fines are doubled for speeding in a school zone.
- Stay alert. Children are the least predictable pedestrians and most difficult to see.
- Obey crossing guards at crosswalks.
- Don't make U-turns or double park in school zones.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

- Stay three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb when waiting for the bus.
- Get on the bus when the driver says it is safe to do so.
- When crossing in front of a bus, walk on the side of the road until you're at least five giant steps (10 feet) away from the bus. You should always see the bus driver and the bus driver should always see you.

WALKING TIPS

- Always walk where drivers expect you to walk.
- Cross at a corner, in a crosswalk (preferably with a crossing guard), or with a pedestrian WALK signal.
- STOP before you cross the street then look left, right, then left again before crossing. Never step off the curb without stopping first. Cross only when it is clear.
- Be visible. Wear bright colors and/or use lights or reflective gear.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic as close to the edge as possible.
- Pay attention to your surroundings and don't play with, push, or shove others.

BIKING TIPS

- Always wear and buckle a properly fitted helmet.
- Be visible. Wear bright colors and/or use lights or reflective wear.
- Know the traffic safety rules, including riding in the same direction as traffic in single file. Stop at all stop signs and signals.
- Choose safe routes to ride, including streets with less traffic and slower speeds.



If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call (954) 828-4755 or email publicaffairs@fortlauderdale.gov.