

533.2 BICYCLE AND WALK TO SCHOOL POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria students, parents/guardians and employees need to follow when bicycling or walking to school. Bicycling and walking promote student and adult well being by integrating more physical activity into a daily routine and provides active living skills and healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

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II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The District supports bicycling and walking as transportation as long as students and staff can do so safely.
- B. Students, parents/guardians and employees have a responsibility to follow the laws and rules for safe walking, bicycling and driving to ensure the safety of all road users - pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.
- C. The School District assumes no liability for injury or damage resulting from individuals biking or walking to school.

III. GUIDELINES

A. Bicycling

1. The School District supports students, parents/guardians and employees using bicycling as transportation, as long as the cyclists live within a comfortable bicycling distance for their level of skill, follow traffic safety laws, and use appropriate safety equipment, including a properly fitted helmet.
2. Children in 3rd grade and below are unlikely to have the developmental and judgment skills for unsupervised bicycling. Therefore, these children should be accompanied by an adult when bicycling to or from school.
3. While on school grounds with a bicycle, students must comply with traffic safety laws and the following rules:
 - Bicyclists must exercise caution around motor vehicles and pedestrian students. Bicyclists must walk bikes on school sidewalks when others are present.
 - Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided.
 - Students are encouraged to bring and use bicycle locks.
 - Helmets must be stored in a locker or backpack, or locked to a bicycle.
 - Students must respect the personal property of others and not interfere with other bicycles. This includes stealing bicycles or equipment, unlocking quick releases, touching helmets locked to bicycles, or any other action that would damage property.

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- The Minnesota bicycling laws can be found at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/roadrules.html>
- 4. The School District assumes no responsibility to ensure that students are trained in bicycle safety. Parents and guardians are expected to teach students the traffic safety laws and school district rules outlined in this policy.

B. Walking

1. The School District supports students, parents/guardians, and employees walking to school, as long as the individuals live within a comfortable walking distance.
2. The School District recommends that students in 3rd grade and below walk with adult supervision.
3. Walkers must obey traffic safety laws and always use their common sense and good judgment.
 - If available, students, parents/guardians and employees should use cross walks where painted.
 - Before crossing, look left, right, and left again to make sure the road is clear. Continue looking while you cross and listen for traffic.
 - Do not cross the street from between parked cars.
4. The School District assumes no responsibility to ensure that students are trained in pedestrian safety. Parents and guardians are expected to teach students the traffic safety and school district rules outlined in this policy.