

Additional Tips

- Do not accept any rides from anyone not pre-approved by your parents.
- Discuss using a password system with your parents. If an adult picking you up is unable to provide the password, refuse the ride.
- With your parents, discuss a walking route to school, parks, and friends' houses. Always have an emergency backup route.
- Talk to your parents about making a group that walks to school together within your neighborhood.
- Call or text your parent when you leave or arrive at any location.
- Run away from anyone who tries to take you, even if they have a weapon. Fight, run, and make as much noise as possible.
- Always tell a trusted adult if you see anything or anyone suspicious.

Internet Safety

- When online, NEVER give out private information! This includes your name, your school name, address, date of birth, email, social media name, or phone number.
- If you are playing a video game, only play with friends you know and have interacted with in person.
- Only download games and apps that your parents have approved.
- You should report if someone online is:
 - Making threats
 - Sending photos of themselves, using words you don't understand, or calling you names like "sweetheart"
 - Asking you for personal photos or information



Missing Endangered Persons
Information Clearinghouse
1-888-FL MISSING



For additional information regarding how to keep your child safe, please contact:
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Missing Endangered Persons Information
Clearinghouse

2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
(850) 410-8585 | 1-888-356-4774
Visit our website: www.fdle.state.fl.us



Rev. 11/24



Safe Passage To and From School

A Guide for Students

Florida Department of
Law Enforcement
Missing Endangered Persons
Information Clearinghouse



What would you do...

If you were approached by someone on the way to school?

Following these tips can help keep you and your friends safe.

Use the buddy system.

- Having a buddy can help you stay safe in many different scenarios.
- Your buddy can be a school friend, an older sibling, or an adult approved by your parents.
- Be a good buddy. Help your buddy to make good choices and stay away from people you don't know.
- Never accept a ride home or go anywhere without parent permission.



Avoid dangerous situations.

- Don't accept candy, food, or presents from people you don't know.
- Don't stop to play around adults or older children you don't know.
- Always keep a safe distance from traffic and people in cars.
- Do not follow adults asking for help. For example, do not follow an adult asking you to search for a missing pet or to give them directions.
- If a person calls you over to his/her car, back away.

Run, scream, and fight!

- If a person tries to get you in the car, turn and run away.
- Always fight back to get away from a person who tries to take you.
- Yell loud enough to attract attention and scare the person away. Yelling "Help!" or "Stranger!" will help tell others you are in danger.
- Run home as fast as you can. You can also go to a friend's house, back to school, or to another safe place.



Show and tell.

- If someone hurts you or tries to take you, tell a trusted adult, such as a parent or member of law enforcement, what happened.
- You can also tell your school teacher, bus driver, or school administrator.
- If you are scared and cannot talk, write down a short note and give it to a trusted adult. The note could be as simple as "Scared," "Hurt," "Danger," or "Need help."

Safety Begins at Home

- If you are home alone, always keep all of the doors locked. Don't open the door unless you are sure it is your parents (always check before unlocking or opening the door!).
- Don't tell anyone that you are home alone.
- Make sure you ask your parents before you leave the house or if your plans change.



Learn More

With your parents' permission, you can learn more about ways to stay safe by visiting these websites:



Secure Florida
www.secureflorida.org

Net Smartz
www.netsmartz.org



National Safe Place
www.nationalsafeplace.org