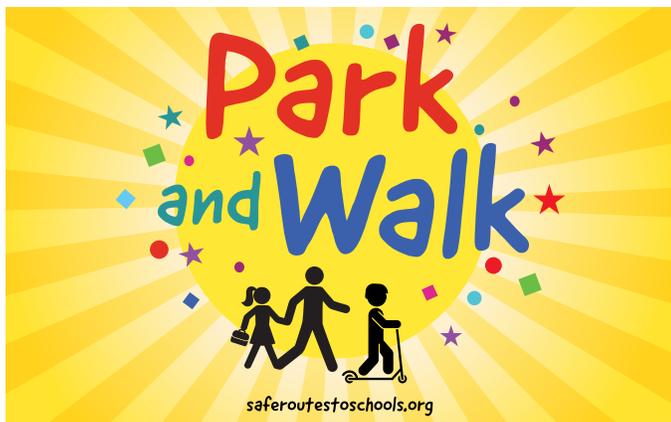


# Park and Walk Locations



Locate Park and Walk locations within walking distance from the school to lessen the congestion around the schools. Parents can drop off older students or park and walk with their younger children.

- **Look at a map of the area immediately surrounding your school** and identify major routes to the school. Many schools have a Safe Routes suggested route map that you can find [here](#). Alternatively, start with a base map from Google or another map application.
- **Identify locations within a ¼ to ½ mile from school** where parents can safely park and walk part way with their child to school, or for a drop off location for older students that can walk (or bike) independently. This is usually a parking lot but it could be a side street.
- **Some ideal locations** – shopping centers, churches, playgrounds and parks, public buildings like a library, areas adjacent to off road pathways, quiet side street with plenty of parking.
- **Make sure there is a safe pathway from that location to the school.** Pop-up infrastructure may be needed.
- **An ideal pathway would be a quiet residential street or pathway** leading to the school with as few major intersections as possible.
- **Get permission in writing** from the property owner to use the area during drop off and pick up times.
- **Create a map of the park and walk locations** and distribute it to the parents at the school
- **Work with Safe Routes to Schools** to promote the park and walk option. SR2S has signage available and other tools.

## Guidelines

There are varying considerations based upon the age of students and route planned. The following guidelines are provided by the Center of Disease Control. Most 10 year olds can walk a mile in approximately 20 minutes and ride a mile in about 7 minutes.

Age	Distance to School and Adult Supervision
4-6 and tots	5 minute walk One adult per three children
7-9	10 – 15 minute walk One adult per six children
10 and older	10 – 20 minute walk Fewer adults depending on multiple factors; some kids may be able to walk or bike on their own.

## Park and Walk Benefits

- Reduces traffic and student congestion in the drop off circles to promote physical distancing
- Reduces reliance of school staff to open doors for students in drop off zones
- Provides exercise during morning and afternoon commutes since sports and recess may be limited
- Increases safe arrival by bike and on foot for other students as well
- Kids can have fun as kids before entering a structured classroom environment

# How to Develop a Park and Walk Program

Once locations have been identified and permission has been granted from private property owners for use of parking lots, develop your education and encouragement communications. Clear communications about traffic circulation, prioritizing students walking and rolling, will help keep everyone safe while providing clear access for buses and students with accessibility needs.

1. **Make your route visible to the new users.** Put up bright signage (English/Spanish) along the route to school. Lawn signs provide great visibility if you have permission of neighbors to put them on their grass (see sample letter). To download our Park and Walk graphic to order signs of your own, contact [gwen@marinbike.org](mailto:gwen@marinbike.org). Or, you can chalk the sidewalks to help direct families along the route – and make it fun too (e.g. “you’re almost there”). The Park and Walk route markings don’t need to be there for long; just long enough for families to learn this new way to school – about a week or two. Follow local rules where applicable.
2. **Consider forming a Ped or Pedal Pod** with a small group of students from the classroom cohorts. This will allow parents to take turns walking the kids to school so that parents don’t have to walk every day. The Center for Disease Control recommends that for children six and under, there should be one adult for three children; children 7-9 require one adult for six children (see chart on previous page). Teach children how to use six-foot social distancing protocols, especially when stopped at crosswalks or intersections.



3. **Promote your Park and Walk locations** and encourage families to use them through your schools’ primary communication methods. A Principal’s dedicated e-blast often works best. A sample communication letter to parents/guardians is in the letters section, though you may wish to edit it using the suggested benefits (above) as is best for your community. Include your recommended route map with the new Park and Walk locations.
4. **Consider creating a short, (30 sec to 1 minute) video** showing your new Park and Walk locations, where you want parents to park, how kids should get out of the car (sidewalk side), where families walk and other pertinent information.

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## Creating a Recommended Route Map

Check [here](#) to see if your school already has a map, or simply create one using google maps or some other mapping application. In addition to identifying the Park and Walk locations and a recommended walk/roll route to school, it is important to provide safety guidance and traffic laws such as reminding parents not to make U turns when driving away. Seek advice from your public works representative if needed for recommended traffic circulation upon leaving.

## Letter from Principals to Parents/Guardians

Dear Parents –

(School) formed a traffic committee under the guidance of Safe Routes to Schools and local public works to help with student arrival to campus with increased physical distancing. The committee, comprised of .... Park and Walk, parent volunteers ...., has identified (LOCATION) and (LOCATION) as Park and Walk locations where families who live far away or have younger children, can park and walk a short distance to school. (our school) strongly urges families to use the locations to help spread out students by reducing traffic and student congestion in the drop off zone on our campus. Walking a short distance to school will also give students a chance to get their wiggles out prior to entering a structured classroom.

Below are the recommended Park and Walk locations based upon where you live.

Neighborhood	Park And Walk Location	School Entrance
Willie Wonka	Chocolate Library on Candy Lane	Back Entrance by Sugar Street playground
Oscar	Sesame Street between Lollipop Lane and Candy Mountain Loop	Entrance by Mr. Elmo's classroom

### Recommended:

- Include your staggered start time here.
- Attach a route map or include a link to the SR2S map here.

### Safety Tips for Drivers:

- When leaving a parked area on a street, continue driving in the same direction
- No U turns on residential streets
- Please do not use neighborhood driveways to turn around. It's dangerous for other kids walking to school

### Safety Tips for Walkers:

- Students to exit car on sidewalk side
- Use all designated crosswalks, corners are crosswalks even if not striped
- Teach kids to stop, look, listen; before crossing the street, look left, right, left for cars
- Cross where crossing guards are located, if available