



BAYONNE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administration Building
669 Avenue A
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

Walter Rogers
Emergency Response & Crisis Mgmt. Coordinator

TO: All Parents/Guardians

FROM: Walter Rogers

DATE: September 08, 2023

RE: Safety Tips on Driving in School Zones and Distracted Walking

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Traffic in and around school zones can create significant hazards for children and teens, as well as crossing guards, school officials, and volunteers. Parents often unknowingly create traffic hazards as they drop off or pick up their children from school. To ensure everyone's safety, be sure to do the following:

- If possible, carpool with neighbors or friends to minimize the number of vehicles in the school zone or at the bus stop.
- Drop your child off on the school side of the street, next to the curb. If that is not possible, park your vehicle legally (never double park) and accompany your child (using a crosswalk or at the corner) across the street to the sidewalk in front of the school.
- Follow instructions provided by school crossing guards – remember they are there to help protect your child.
- Slow down and comply with the posted speed limit, not only in school zones, but where children are walking or biking along the road.
- Resist the urge to “drop off and dash.” Pull out slowly and look not only ahead, but along-side and behind your vehicle for pedestrians, bicyclists, cars, and buses.
- Eliminate all distractions – particularly cell phones and other electronic devices that reduce your ability to react quickly in driving situations involving young children and their spontaneous actions.
- Teach your child to look all ways before crossing and to cross only in crosswalks or at corners.
- Make sure that everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained in the appropriate child safety seat or booster seat or seat belt. New Jersey law requires all children under 8 years of age or who weigh less than 80 pounds to ride in a properly installed car or booster seat. All children between 8 and 18 years of age and all adults must wear a seat belt.

The National Safety Council is focused on efforts to eliminate **distracted walking - specifically walking while using a mobile device**. Kids often don't recognize the dangers of distracted walking. Before your children head out, please remind them of these year-round safety tips:

- Never walk while texting.
- If texting, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk.
- Never cross the street while using an electronic device.
- Do not walk with headphones in your ears.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Always walk on the sidewalk if one is available.
- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Cross only at the crosswalk.

Thank you and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Walter Rogers
Emergency Response & Crisis Management Coordinator
School Safety Specialist