



# Safety is Everybody's Responsibility

## What Parents Can Do to Help

### Create a Safe Home

Be sure . . .

- Young children can recite their full name, the full name of their parent or guardian, their telephone number, and home address.
- To tell your child never to talk to strangers or allow strangers to enter your home.
- Your child has access to a home phone and knows how to dial 911 in case of emergency.
- You know the names of your child's friends.
- Your child follows curfew laws.
- You are aware of your child's internet activities.
- To talk with and listen to your child. Children can suffer in silence when they are being bullied, harassed, recruited by gangs, or victimized by negative peer pressure.

Emergency Numbers	
City of Chicago .....	911
Student Safety Center (open 24/7).....	773-553-3335
Student Protections and Title IX.....	773-535-4400
Parent Support Center.....	773-553-3772
Policy and Procedures.....	773-553-1216
Student Transportation Services.....	773-553-2860
Student's School_____	
Bus Company_____	

### Create a Safe Route to School

Teach your child to . . .

- Take the safest route to and from school. Walk your child to school or have them walk with a buddy when possible.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Not wear headphones or talk on cell phones when going to and from school.

- Never talk to strangers, enter a stranger's vehicle, or accept anything from strangers.
- Listen for approaching trains and traffic and never cross railroad tracks when warning lights are flashing or the gate is down.
- Never walk along railroad tracks or take shortcuts through alleys.
- Avoid touching stray animals. Report animal bites to an adult immediately.
- Cross streets at the crosswalk, traffic light, or special school crossing.
- Obey the directions of the school crossing guard.
- Avoid vacant lots and buildings.
- Never touch needles or other suspicious or dangerous objects.
- Recognize locations of safe havens.
- Walk safely to the school bus.
- Never touch powerlines or electric boxes.
- Never jump on the back of moving vehicles.

### Create a Safe Bus Ride to School

Teach your child to . . .

- Be at the school bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- Remain at the curb while waiting for the bus.
- Be alert when approaching the bus.
- Never walk or run in front of a school bus.
- Obey the school bus rules, bus aide, and driver.
- Use a seat belt and stay seated during the entire bus ride.
- Be courteous to all passengers.
- Stay out of the bus danger zone (ten feet in front of the bus and six feet to the left and right).
- Never walk behind a school bus.

### Create a Safe Ride to School

If you drive your child or your child drives to and from school . . .

- Wear seat belts and utilize an earpiece when talking on cell phones. It's the law.
- Drop off and pick up your child only in designated safe areas.
- Have your child exit and enter the car on the sidewalk side in front of the school.
- Don't drive or ride with a driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Park only in designated student or parent parking areas.

## **Create a Safe School**

**Be an active parent at the school by:**

- Accompanying your child to the school bus stop and meeting the bus at the stop in the afternoon.
- Knowing the name of the school principal and the name(s) of your child's teacher(s).
- Knowing the school's daily schedule and annual calendar.
- Providing the school with a current and emergency home address and phone number.
- Talking with your child's teacher(s) about any concerns of student safety and how you can work together for the safety of all children.
- Discussing with your child and supporting the CPS Student Code of Conduct.
- Volunteering in your child's school.
- Joining or organizing a School Parent Patrol.
- Reporting unsafe conditions in and around the school to the principal.

## **Create a Safe Community**

**Be part of the community by:**

- Joining the local police district's CAPS program.
- Organizing a Walking School Bus program in your neighborhood.
- Reporting any suspicious neighborhood activities to the police.
- Starting or participating in a Neighborhood Watch safety program.
- Identifying a home or apartment that your child can go to in case of an emergency.
- Participating in gang awareness workshops.
- Becoming aware of the identifiers that gangs use.
- Removing graffiti from your property as soon as possible.