



KEEPING KIDS SAFE



IN VEHICLES

Infants/Toddlers

All infants and toddlers should ride in a **rear-facing infant or rear-facing convertible seat until they are 2 years of age** or until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.

Toddlers/Preschoolers

All children 2 years or older should use a **forward-facing convertible seat or forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible**, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat's manufacturer.

School-aged children

All children whose weight or height is above the forward-facing limit for their harnessed child safety seat should use a **belt-positioning booster seat** until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached **4 feet 9 inches in height and are between 8 and 12 years of age**.

***State Law REQUIRES use of a child safety seat until the child reaches 8 years and/or 4 feet 9 inches; failure to comply with this law is a fine in the amount of \$85.00 per unrestrained child.**

Older children

When children are old enough and large enough to use the vehicle seat belt alone, they should always use **lap and shoulder seat belts** for optimal protection. All children younger than 13 years should be restrained in the **rear seats** of vehicles for optimal protection.

***The fine for a child riding in the front seat or not in a seatbelt over the age of 8 is \$85.**

***A violation for transporting a child not in a child restraint system requires an appearance in court.**



ON BICYCLES, SCOOTERS OR SKATES

RI LAW: § 31-19-2.1

Requires bicyclists, bicycle passengers, skateboarders, roller skaters, inline skaters, and scooter riders ages fifteen (15) and younger to wear a helmet.

Any person fifteen (15) years of age or younger who is operating or who is a passenger on a bicycle or who is using or operating a skateboard, roller skates, scooter or inline skates on a public highway, bicycle trail or path, shared use path, park and/or recreational area, school property or on any other public right of way, must wear a helmet. The helmet shall fit the person's head and shall be secured to the person's head by straps.

RI LAW: § 31-19-6

Ride on the Right! Every person operating a bicycle on a roadway must ride as near to the right side of the roadway as possible except where official traffic control devices (signs or pavement markings) specifically direct bicyclists to do otherwise.



WHEN WALKING

RI LAW: § 31-18-11

Walk, jog or run on left! Where sidewalks are not provided, any person walking, jogging, or running along and upon a public roadway should, when practicable, walk, jog or run only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction. Any person jogging or running during the time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, must wear reflective material which is visible by low beam headlights from a distance of at least five hundred feet (500').



ON THE BUS

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Before children go back to school or start school for the first time, it is essential that adults and children know traffic safety rules.



Drivers

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state. Learn the “flashing signal light system” that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:

- **YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS** indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.

- **RED FLASHING LIGHTS** and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Children

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it’s okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don’t get caught in the handrails or doors.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

