

Student Travel Map Guidelines

The Student Travel Map is based on a combination of a one and two mile radius of the target school and the school attendance boundary. The map shows the target school. The streets are highlighted to show the most favored to the least favored routes.

GREEN



Most favored route. May have a detached sidewalk and/or a bike lane. May be a path that has no vehicle traffic. (A detached sidewalk is separated from the roadway, often by a strip of grass, dirt or rocks.)

BLUE



Has attached sidewalks that are wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side. (An attached sidewalk is right next to the roadway).

YELLOW



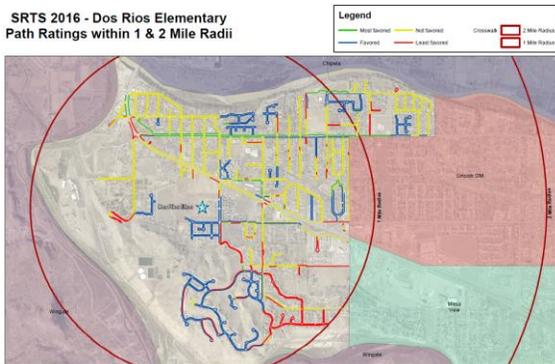
Has a place to walk or ride that may be a sidewalk, but could be a path or simply sufficient unpaved space on the side of the road.

RED



Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

SRTS 2016 - Dos Rios Elementary
Path Ratings within 1 & 2 Mile Radii



The map does not indicate a specific route for your child to walk or bicycle to school. It is suggested that the parent or legal guardian of the student decide the most appropriate route for their child. There are instances where your child may still be transported within the shown walk boundary. To confirm if your child is eligible for school transportation you may go to Mesa County Valley School District's web site at <http://www.mesa.k12.co.us/> select the "Parents tab", then the Bus/Transport icon or contact Student Transportation of America at 970-697-1050.

Most children are not ready to cross a street alone until age 10. However, children vary in their developmental readiness to make decisions about where and when to walk or bicycle and cross a street. You are the best judge of when your child is ready to walk or bicycle without an adult.

Generally, when children approach middle school age, they are more visible to motorists and are able to make proper judgment on where and when to walk and cross a street. They are expected at this age to have gained enough experience to make appropriate route decisions and exhibit safe pedestrian behavior.

The Law:

- **Pedestrians:** Colorado law places responsibility on drivers and pedestrians alike. A pedestrian may not step out in front of a vehicle that is close enough to be a hazard. However, a vehicle must yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian already crossing the street whether in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- **Bicycles:** Bicycles are fun to ride, but they're also legally considered vehicles. The minute a bicycle enters a pathway, a sidewalk, a park, a street or road, it is not a toy; it is a vehicle and therefore required to obey the same traffic laws as vehicles. If riding on the sidewalk, the cyclist must yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian. On a sidewalk the cyclist has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances and must dismount before crossing any roadway (crosswalk). Cyclists should travel in the same direction as vehicles, use proper signals to turn, slow or stop and obey all traffic signs and signals. It is the responsibility of every cyclist to adhere to these laws as well as other safety guidelines.

Through collective efforts of parents, teachers, kids, community... Through Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Encouragement... Safer traffic environments are created.

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Practice and Reinforce:

If you have decided your child is ready for this level of responsibility, review the Walking Boundary Map and decide on an appropriate route for your child to and from school. Once you have decided on a route, review the route with your child and walk or bicycle with your child on the chosen route. Children have the best chance of retaining and applying walking and bicycling skills if they have a chance to practice them with supervision and reinforcement.

If you have decided to allow your child to walk or bicycle to school without adult supervision, ***please review the walk to school safety tips or the bicycling safety tips***. Go over the information with your child. As you walk or bicycle with your child on the chosen route, reinforce the safety tips and practice safe behavior.

What Can You Do?

Parents worry about children encountering bullies or strangers on the way to school and there may be a fear of kidnapping or assault. While the actual occurrences are extremely rare, there are solutions to address these concerns. Parent accompaniment of children on the walk to school is one way to solve this concern. Some communities use walking school buses as a way to have an adult presence on the street.

Check with your child's school to see if they have any programs for group walking or bicycling. If not, consider starting one. There are links to various web sites on the walk to school safety tips and the bicycling safety tips documents that can assist you in starting a program. When there are more adults and children walking and biking on the road, the community becomes accustomed to their presence which creates a safer environment.