

MEMORANDUM

August 11, 2009

TO: All School Principals

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: BACK TO SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY FLYER FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

The School Board at its meeting of August 5, 2009, approved Agenda Item H-5, endorsing the attached Traffic Safety Message Flyer for distribution during the first week of the 2009-2010 school year. The agenda item, proffered by School Board Member Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, promotes traffic safety messages applicable to parents, students, teachers, and surrounding school neighbors. The Safety Flyer has been translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole to reach members of our multi-cultural community. The safety messages will also be reinforced during the Walk Our Children to School Day and WalkSafe Program events scheduled in October.

I encourage you to post the Safety Flyers on your respective school websites, and share the important messages with your students and faculty throughout the year.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call Ms. Vivian G. Villaamil, District Metropolitan Planning Organization Liaison, at 305-995-7287.

AMC:scj
M175

Attachments

cc: School Board Members
School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Superintendent's Senior Staff

August 2009



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAMS

WELCOME YOU BACK TO SCHOOL! Be Smart. Be Safe.

Summer is over and it's back to school time! In an effort to keep your new school year fun and safe we ask that parents and children/students, and also, school staff and teachers, follow these simple guidelines when traveling to and from school:

- Walk with your children to school. Walking to school promotes health, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone.
- Obey all posted speed signs. Slow down when entering 15 MPH School Speed Zones. Police will enforce this!
- Obey all posted roadway signs. For example: "Do Not Enter" signs are for designated limited access streets around some schools. Police will enforce this!
- When stopping, standing, or parking your vehicle, please use the designated areas only. Do not block driveways or sidewalks. If you use non-designated areas, or are blocking access ways, you will be ticketed!
- Buckle Up! Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. Fines are \$114 per person, per infraction. If a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt, the driver will be ticketed.
- Pedestrian Safety Tips: Always use the "look left, right, left" rule whenever crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrians signals, when available, making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.
- Be Safe...Be Seen: When walking or bike riding wear bright colors during the day. During dawn, dusk and night times, use lights and/or reflective clothing so you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

*This message is brought to you by Miami-Dade County Public Schools,
Your Local Community Traffic Safety Teams, and its partners. **Be smart. Be safe.***



Agosto del 2009



**LAS ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DEL CONDADO MIAMI-DADE
Y
SUS EQUIPOS LOCALES DE SEGURIDAD DE TRÁFICO DE LA COMUNIDAD
¡LES DA LA BIENVENIDA DE REGRESO A LA ESCUELA!
*Actúe con Inteligencia. Actúe con Seguridad.***

¡El verano ha terminado y es hora de regresar a la escuela! Con el propósito de mantener el nuevo año escolar divertido y seguro, les pedimos a los padres de familia, niños/estudiantes y también los empleados de la escuela y a los maestros, que obedezcan estas simples normas cuando vayan en camino y de regreso a las escuelas.

- Camine con sus niños a la escuela. El caminar a la escuela ayuda a promover la salud, ahorra gasolina y tiempo. También ayuda a disminuir la congestión del tránsito alrededor de la escuela.
- Obedezca todas las señales de velocidad. Reduzca la velocidad cuando entre en las zonas de límite de velocidad de 15 MPH. ¡La policía hará que se cumpla esta ley!
- Obedezca todas las señales de carretera. Por ejemplo, las señales de “No Entre” están designadas para que haya acceso limitado en algunas calles alrededor de algunas escuelas. ¡La policía hará que se cumpla esta ley!
- Cuando pare, detenga o estacione su vehículo, por favor, solamente utilice las áreas designadas. No obstaculice las entradas o las aceras. Si usted utiliza las áreas no designadas para estacionarse u obstaculiza el acceso a los caminos, ¡será multado!
- ¡Abróchese el Cinturón de Seguridad! Asegúrese que todos los ocupantes del vehículo, especialmente los niños, siempre tengan el cinturón puesto. Si fuese aplicable, los niños deben de estar sentados en los asientos de seguridad o sillas elevadas para niños. La Ley del Cinturón de Seguridad del Estado (The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law) requiere que todas las personas (adultos y niños) se abrochen el cinturón de seguridad y pueden recibir una multa por esa infracción solamente. Las multas son \$114 por persona, por cada infracción. Si un niño (menor de 18 años) no tiene el cinturón de seguridad puesto, el chofer recibirá la multa.
- Sugerencias de Seguridad para los Peatones: Siempre use la regla de “mire a la izquierda, mire a la derecha, y mire a la izquierda de nuevo” cuando cruce la calle. Siempre utilice los cruces de peatones designados y las señales de los peatones cuando estén disponibles, asegurándose de seguir todas las instrucciones de dicha señal. No cruce la calle por el medio entre intersecciones, a no ser que ahí exista un designado cruce de peatones. No cruce delante de un automóvil a no ser que usted esté seguro/a de que el chofer lo puede ver claramente.
- Esté Seguro...Asegúrese de ser Visto: Cuando esté caminando o montando bicicleta, use ropas de colores llamativos durante el día. Durante el amanecer, el atardecer y en la noche, use luces o ropa que brille para que sea más visible a los chóferes. Las mochilas deben de estar compuestas de algunos materiales brillantes. Lleven una linterna

*Este mensaje llega a usted por cortesia de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado Miami-Dade.
Sus Equipos Locales de Seguridad de Tráfico de La Comunidad y sus socios. Actúe con Inteligencia. Actúe con Seguridad.*





LEKÒL LETA MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
AK
EKIP LOKAL POU SEKIRITE TRAFIK NAN KOMINOTE W LA

SWETE W BON RETOU NAN LEKÒL! Montre W Entelijan. Rete Ansekirite.

Ete a fini e se moman pou w tounen lekòl! Nan efò n ap fè pou kenbe nouvo ane lekòl ou a enteresan e san danje nou mande pou paran ak timoun/elèv, epitou, anplwaye lekòl ak pwofesè yo, suiv règleman tou senp sa yo lè y ap deplase ale lekòl e lè y ap soti lekòl:

- Mache avèk pitit ou lè li pral lekòl. Mache al lekòl bon pou sante, li fè w ekonomize gaz ak tan, e li dinimye pwoblèm trafik nan alantou lekòl la pou tout moun.
- Obeyi tout siy vitès ki ekri nan lari a. Ralanti lè w ap antre nan Zòn Vitès Lekòl 15 "MPH" Polis ap fè w aplike sa!
- Obeyi tout siy ki ekri sou wout la. Pa egzanp: Siy "Do Not Enter" (Pa Antre) ki deziye limit trafik nan alantou kèk lekòl. Polis ap fè w aplike sa!
- Lè w ap kanpe, estasyone, oubyen pake machin ou, silvouplè itilize zòn yo deziye pou sa sèlman. Pa bloke wout pou moun antre lakay yo ak twotwa yo. Si w itilize yon zòn ou pa dwe itilize, oubyen si w bloke yon antre, y ap ba ou tikè!
- Tache Senti W! Asire w tout moun nan machin nan, espesyalman timoun yo, toujou gen senti yo tache. Timoun yo dwe byen tache nan chèz sekirite ki apwopriye e/oubyen chèz ki wo, si li aplikab. Prensipal Lwa Eta Florid sou Senti Sekirite mande pou tout moun (adilt e timoun) tache senti yo. Amand la se \$114 pou chak moun pou chak vyolasyon. Si yo wè yon timoun (anba 18 an) san senti sekirite, chofè a ap pran tikè.
- Konsèy pou Sekirite Pyeton: Toujou itilize règ "look left, right, left" (gade agoch, adwat, e agoch) nenpòt lè w ap travèse yon ri. Toujou itilize kote yo deziye kòm pasaj pou pyeton ak siyal pou pyeton yo, lè yo disponib, pandan w ap asire ou suiv tout enstriksyon siyal yo. Pa travèse nan mitan yon blòk ant de entèseksyon, amwenske gen yon pasaj yo deziye pou sa. Pa travèse devan yon machin amwenske ou sèten chofè a wè w byen.
- Rete Ansekirite...Fè Wè W: Lè w ap mache oubyen kondui bisiklèt/motosiklèt mete koulè ki briyan sou ou pandan lajounen. Nan granm maten, lanjèl e aswè, sèvi avèk limyè e/oubyen rad ki gen reflektè yo, konsa chofè yo ap ka wè w pi byen. Sakado yo dwe gen materyèl ki gen reflektè sou yo. Mache avèk yon flach.

Se Lekòl Leta Miami-Dade County, Ekip Lokal pou Sekirite Trafik nan Kominote W la, ak patnè l yo ki pote mesaj sa a pou ou. **Montre W Entelijan. Rete Ansekirite.**



Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of August 5, 2009

July 31, 2009

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF TRAFFIC SAFETY
MESSAGE FLYER FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING THE FIRST
WEEK OF SCHOOL**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY
IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) was endorsed by the School Board at its April 18, 2006 meeting under Agenda Item B-8, which I sponsored. For the past three years, the CTST has partnered with the School District to promote student pedestrian/bicycle safety in our neighborhoods. The CTST is a locally based team of multi-jurisdictional agencies under the auspices of the Florida Department of Transportation.

CTST membership includes School District representatives from the Division of Safety & Emergency Management, School Police, District Transportation, School Operations, Planning, Design, & Sustainability/MPO Liaison, and representatives from the following agencies: Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization, Miami-Dade County Police Crossing Guard Unit, Miami-Dade County Public Works, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, Florida International University/Engineering Division, City of Miami Bicycle Coordinator, and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/WalkSafe Program.

The WalkSafe Program, which has been endorsed by the School Board on an annual basis, has been aggressively targeting elementary schools with a mission to decrease pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities, increase physical activity levels and improve walk-ability. Since 2002, there has been a 66% decrease in the number of children being sent to the two major trauma centers in Miami-Dade County, as a result of traffic related pedestrian injuries. This past school year, the WalkSafe curriculum was implemented at 143 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, teaching over 87,000 students to "walksafe". The goal for this coming school year is to implement the WalkSafe Program at all elementary schools in the District.

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H-5**

The CTST recognizes that student pedestrian safety initiatives at the classroom level are an important component of overall traffic safety in our schools and surrounding communities. However, community-based encouragement and involvement is just as important to ensure pedestrian awareness and safe driving skills. Parents and student drivers need to also follow posted school speed zone signs, crosswalk signs and parking laws.

As such, in addition to promoting the WalkSafe Program during the Walk to School Day Events on October 7, 2009, the CTST wishes to start the new school year with a resounding safety message that aggressively promotes student traffic safety at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In this regard, it has developed a safety flyer for distribution at all schools to parents, students and teachers (see attached, which will also be translated into Spanish and Creole). Distribution will be handled via the District Weekly Briefing format, and postings on school websites. The messages shown below are short and simple, but the potential of saving lives and avoiding costly police enforcement violations are enormous:

- Walk with your children to school. Walking to school promotes health, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone.
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- Buckle Up! Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. Fines are \$114 per person, per infraction. If a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt, the driver will be ticketed.
- Pedestrian Safety Tips: Always use the "look left, right, left" rule whenever crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrians signals, when available, making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid-block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.
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you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

In order to jump-start the new school year with important traffic safety messages, it is recommended that the School Board endorse the Welcome Back to School Safety Flyer, developed by the CTST and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and continue to encourage the WalkSafe Program guidelines on a daily basis throughout the school year.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse Traffic Safety Message Flyers for distribution during the first week of school, as developed by The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team and The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Walksafe Program.

August 2009



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