



Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

Headquarters: 1015 39th Ave SE Suite 120, Puyallup, WA 98374

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 940, Spanaway, WA, 98387

Office: (253) 538-6400 | Fax: (253) 276-6770

www.centralpiercefirerescue.org

Dear Educators and Administrators,

Thank you for choosing to support the safety of the students in your school and community through pedestrian safety education!

Equipping our children with the skills and awareness to walk safely in our community not only enhances their personal safety but also supports their growth as healthy and aware community members. In 2021, pedestrian injuries among children in the United States resulted in 185 total injuries per week, with 7 of those being fatal.¹ As of 2022, nearly 60% of Washington's pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities occur in just three counties: Pierce, King, and Spokane.² As Pierce County community members, you can support risk reduction by teaching fundamental pedestrian skills in your school.

Elementary school is the perfect developmental stage to establish and hone students' pedestrian safety skills. At this age, developmental characteristics that support the need for pedestrian safety skills include:

- Children's field of vision is about one-third less (narrower) than adults.
- Children cannot judge a car's speed and distance as well as adults, and they may not be able to quickly determine the direction traffic sounds are coming from.
- Children are not always as visible to drivers and can be more easily hidden by parked cars, garbage bins, and other visual barriers. As cars have become larger and higher off the ground, such visibility concerns have increased.
- Children may be impatient or impulsive, while also not being aware of potential dangers.
- Children are more likely to concentrate on only one thing at a time, which may not be traffic safety.
- Children are likely to imitate the behavior of older children and adults.

This pedestrian safety curriculum is optimal in a P.E. classroom setting to teach students what to look for and how to walk safely on our roadways. It equips teachers with resources and questions to bring these lessons into their classrooms. Lastly, we have included handouts to be shared with families to empower them to model safe walking behaviors for their children.

Our certificated Public Educators adapted this curriculum from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the City of Tacoma's Safe Routes to School, and SafeKids Worldwide. Essential vocabulary and engaging activities were selected in order to create a flexible program that can be integrated in a manner most manageable for teachers.

We are so grateful for your effort to improve the safety and health of our community!

Sincerely,

Courtney Thompson, M.Ed
Public Educator

Kristin Gomez, BAEd
Public Educator

¹ Pedestrian Fast Facts, Safe Kids Worldwide. <https://www.safekids.org/fast-fact/traffic-related-pedestrian-injuries-among-child>

² WTSC Brief #11, State of the State: Washington Traffic Fatalities. <https://wtsc.wa.gov/download/13289/>