



HUTTO ISD WALKER HANDBOOK

A Guide to Safe and Successful Travel to School

Revised: 08/24/2023

The Hutto Independent School District provides transportation to and from school as a service for eligible students residing in the district. The State of Texas prescribes the conditions governing school bus operations and funds the service by allotting the district a given amount for the transport of eligible students. An eligible student resides two (2) or more miles from his or her school campus. Therefore a large number of our students walk to school each day.

Safe passage of our students to and from school is the highest priority of the Hutto ISD Transportation Department. Hutto ISD is pleased to assist students in the most effective manner that meets the level of safety and quality of service required to meet the educational needs of our students. We ask for your cooperation with school personnel in developing, assisting, and enforcing proper behavior habits for our walkers. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

This book provides the guidelines to ensure that a safe and successful experience is shared by all of our Hippo walkers. We look forward to serving the community!

PARENTS AND WALKERS

Parents, please take time to read and discuss the contents of this book with your students who walk to and from school. Any student that does not travel to and/or from school in a motor vehicle is considered a walker for the purposes of this book. This includes walkers, bike riders, skateboards, scooters, etc.

BASIC RULES FOR WALKING TO SCHOOL

To ensure the safety of our walkers, these guidelines should be followed at all times.

1. Stay on the sidewalk or shoulder of the road at all times.
2. Do not talk to strangers.
3. Do not approach or get into the car of a stranger.
4. Do not touch stray animals.
5. Do not enter other people's property.
6. Wear clothing that makes you easily seen.

HOW TO SAFELY CROSS THE STREET WITH YOUR CROSSING GUARD

When approaching the intersection, focus on the crossing guard. If riding a bike, dismount, walk the bike to the corner, and wait for the crossing guard's directions. Stop on the sidewalk before the intersection. Wait for the crossing guard to acknowledge your presence.

When the crossing guard motions for you to cross, look both ways before stepping into the crosswalk. Once you start to cross the street, proceed to the sidewalk on the other side in one continuous motion. When you reach the other side of the intersection, you may mount your bike and proceed.

WHERE TO WALK

It is recommended that walkers stay on the sidewalk whenever possible. If the sidewalk is unavailable, walk in the grass at least ten feet away from the road. If a sidewalk or grass shoulder is not available, then find an alternate route.

GETTING HELP WHEN NEEDED

If, during travel to or from school, a student is injured, threatened, or in an unsafe situation; the student must know how to get help. Parents should inform their neighbors that their students will walk to and from school. Parents should teach their students the friends or family they can go to along the walking path. If no friends or family is available, the student should go to a school, church, or public place to ask for help. If the student is close to a crossing guard, go immediately to the crossing guard. Flag down first responders (police, fire, EMS) for help. If truly an emergency, call 911.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Hutto Independent School District Transportation Department encourages all neighborhoods within the walking zones of our campuses to seek opportunities to form walking school buses. A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable, and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.

A variation on the walking school bus is the bicycle train, in which adults supervise children riding their bikes to school. The flexibility of the walking school bus makes it appealing to communities of all sizes with varying needs. For more information on walking school buses, visit www.walkingschoolbus.org.

FIRST AID

Our crossing guards are trained in first aid, and CPR/AED. Crossing guards are equipped with a basic first aid kit. They can treat minor scrapes and abrasions. After receiving first aid from a crossing guard, the student should go to the nurse, if on the way to school, or report it to the parent when arriving at home.

STRAY OR DEAD ANIMALS

Students should never, under any circumstances, approach, touch, or handle a stray or dead animal. The animal could have parasites or diseases. It could still be alive and may harm the student.

SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE OR VEHICLES

While traveling to and from school, it is possible that students may encounter an unknown person or see a suspicious vehicle. Do not talk to the person. Keep a safe distance from the person or vehicle. If pursued by the person run away, scream, and seek help.

DISCIPLINE

The crossing guard is a district employee, and the crosswalk is an extension of the classroom and discipline will be administered by the crossing guard, the Campus Administration, and the Director of Transportation. All school board policies that apply to student conduct and other student related activities apply to this setting.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact us at (512) 759 – 2105 if more information is needed.