

Policy Code: 6327 Students Walking to and from School

The Wake County School Board recognizes the many benefits of students walking to and from school when it is safe to do so. The Board encourages towns, municipalities, and other local governments to establish and maintain safe walking paths to school. For the purpose of this policy, walking includes the passage of students to and from school by foot, bicycle, or any means other than by motor vehicle.

The school district provides transportation to and from school in accordance with applicable law and Board policies. Parents/guardians whose student is not provided school system transportation, or who elect not to use school system transportation when it is provided, are **solely** responsible for the safe passage of students to and from school. It shall be the responsibility of parents/guardians to instruct students on safety precautions to be used when walking to and from school and for the safety or care of walking students before they enter or after they leave school grounds.

Students who walk to or from school must follow any applicable school rules and procedures for registering and for arrival and departure times. Such rules and procedures are set by the principal of the school. Students and their parents/guardians will be informed of such rules at the beginning of each year.

The Board recognizes the responsibility of parents/guardians in deciding whether to allow a student to walk to or from school. In general, students in grades two and above may walk unaccompanied by a responsible adult. For any pre-k, kindergarten, or first grade student, parents/guardians should arrange for a responsible adult or older sibling (in grades two and above) to accompany them. A school may recommend that students of a certain age, and/or students whose walking path would pose added risk, refrain from walking to and from school unaccompanied by a responsible adult for safety reasons. The school will notify parents/guardians of this recommendation, and the student will not be permitted to walk unaccompanied. After notification, the parent/guardian must provide written direction to the school requiring release of the student to walk unaccompanied. It is the Board's request, however, that parents/guardians uphold the recommendation of the school.

In limited, exceptional circumstances, when there is a clear and substantial risk to the student and with approval of the Superintendent's designee within the Transportation Department, the principal may deny the student walking unaccompanied by a responsible adult even if the parent provides written direction. Such a decision may be challenged through policy [1740 Student and Parent Grievance Procedure](#). While the matter is under appeal, the principal's decision is to be honored.

In all circumstances where a student is not permitted to walk unaccompanied by a responsible adult, if a parent does not comply with the determination, the school district may take appropriate measures to address the concern. Those measures include, but are not limited to, an administrative school reassignment, the revocation of a voluntary transfer, or any other appropriate measure.