

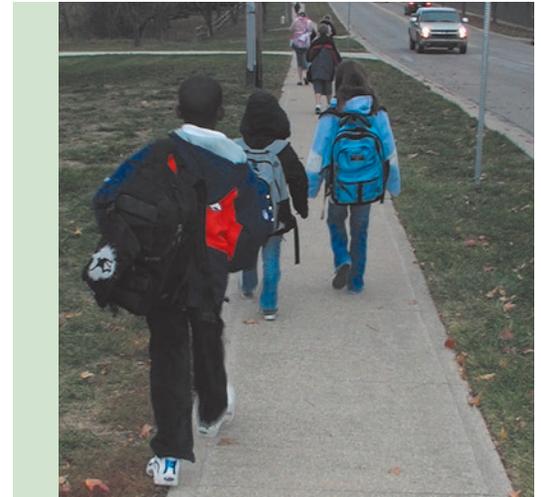
Assessing Walking and Bicycling Routes

A SELECTION OF TOOLS



One of the first steps in starting a Safe Routes to School program is to assess the routes students currently—or could in the future—walk and bicycle to school. Many tools have been created to assist community members, transportation professionals and others who might be involved in planning for safe walking and bicycling travel for children. This table includes a selection of existing forms to meet different needs. There are many more available than those included here, but these provide a representation of the most common questions addressed in an assessment.

When trying to decide between tools, the first step is to consider the physical scope that would be most helpful to assess. For example, is there a need to assess the entire school zone or specific routes? Here, the tools are organized by largest scope (school zone) to most focused location (intersection). All materials are downloadable from www.saferoutesinfo.org/online_library.



Audit Name and Source	Intended User	Area Addressed
Michigan Safe Routes to School Handbook , Michigan Fitness Foundation and Michigan Department of Transportation with funding from the Federal Highway Administration	Community Groups, Parents, Students, or School Staff	School Zone, School Route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a school property assessment, a walking audit, and a bicycling audit that help users identify safety concerns and record specific issues on a neighborhood map. Addresses sidewalks and bicycling lanes, street crossings, school zone physical conditions, and motorist behavior. Includes a section on considerations for students with special needs. Addresses bicycling issues. 		
Pedestrian Road Safety Audit and Guidelines , Federal Highway Administration	Engineers or other Transportation Professionals	School Zone, School Route, Street Crossing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses pedestrian safety in general and is not specifically focused on child pedestrians. See page 33 for safety considerations for child pedestrians. Includes images to illustrate particular safety concerns. Even users who are not conducting a full road safety audit may find important pedestrian issues presented and described in this document. Refers to resources that describe possible solutions to identified problems. 		
School Site Assessment for Traffic Safety , Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program	Community Groups, Parents, Students, or School Staff	School Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses issues beyond physical site, including: administration and policy, school siting policy, safety and education programs as well as student travel patterns, school traffic design, student pick-up and drop-off areas, and bicycle parking. Addresses bicycling issues. 		
School Site Audit , Delaware Department of Transportation, adapted with permission from the Maryland Safe Routes to School Guidebook	Community Groups, Parents, Students, or School Staff	School Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses sidewalks and bicycle routes, student drop-off and bus loading areas, nearby intersections, sight distance, and traffic control. Addresses bicycling issues. 		

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A SELECTION OF TOOLS (continued)

Audit Name and Source	Intended User	Area Addressed
School Zone Traffic Safety Evaluation , Colorado Department of Transportation	Community Groups, Parents, Students, or School Staff	School Zone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses school population characteristics, physical setting, transportation and education issues, and traffic enforcement strategies. Includes an introduction, glossary, instructions, and other supporting materials. Some of the information is Colorado-specific. Addresses bicycling issues. 		
Neighborhood Site Audit , Delaware Department of Transportation, adapted with permission from the Maryland Safe Routes to School Guidebook	Community Groups, Parents, Students, or School Staff	School Route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes detailed questions to help evaluate the safety of a particular route to school by addressing intersections, crosswalks, road segments, sidewalks, and security issues. Addresses bicycling issues. 		
Neighborhood Walking/Biking Assessment for urban, suburban, and rural areas , Keystone Healthy Routes, Pennsylvania	Engineers or Community Groups, Parents, Students, School Staff	School Route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses physical conditions such as trails, sidewalks, street crossing, and types of land uses in three separate neighborhood assessments for urban, suburban and rural areas. Includes instructions for marking physical conditions on neighborhood maps. Addresses bicycling issues. 		
Walkability Checklist , University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center	Community Groups, Parents, Students	School Route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses a range of conditions that pedestrians may encounter walking a particular route. Includes crossings, sidewalk characteristics, and driver behavior, among others. Suggests both immediate answers and long-term solutions to identified concerns. 		
Walk to School Walkability Checklist , California Center for Physical Activity	Parents, Students	School Route
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes questions about the school route for children and adults in a brief checklist. Focuses on the child's experience walking to school, including driver behavior and physical conditions, as well as reasons for choosing a particular mode of transportation to school. 		
School Crossing Safety Audit Form , City of Phoenix, Arizona	Engineers or other Transportation Professionals	Street Crossing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses physical and traffic conditions at school crossings using a rating system. Helps to evaluate and compare the safety of different intersections within the school zone. Describes the process and purpose of conducting an audit in an accompanying set of instructions. 		

A note on terminology:

The definition of a school zone can vary. Here the school zone includes the school campus and adjacent streets, sidewalks, trails, and crosswalks. The school route refers to the streets, paths, crosswalks and other infrastructure encountered in the walking or bicycling trip from home to school entrance. While there may be some overlap between these two, the former focuses on the school and nearby areas and the latter addresses neighborhood conditions children might experience while walking from their home to school.