

## **PARTNERS IN SAFETY**

The school staff recognizes your concerns as parents, and the safety and security of your children are the school's primary objectives. Many schools have a safety committee of the PTA that works closely with the school staff on safety issues including the Kiss & Ride procedures. With your help through following the safety rules described in this guide, the Kiss & Ride supervisor can help your children enter the school safe and ready to learn.

Contact your school for further information about the location of your Kiss & Ride area, and the times that it is staffed.

**Let's work together to protect our children.**



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# **Kiss & Ride A Driver's Guide To Dropping Off And Picking Up Students**

Schools are active centers of learning and discovery. As students learn, we need to keep them safe and also teach them about safety. Safety measures begin as the students arrive at school each morning, are maintained during the day, and continue as students depart in the afternoon.

Vehicular traffic around a school can pose a safety problem, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. The flow of traffic created by private cars dropping off and picking up children, commuters passing the school, and school buses converging create potential hazards to students.

Kiss & Ride should not be utilized as a primary means of transporting your student to and from school on a daily basis. In order to lessen the traffic burden around your school, have your student walk to/from school or have your child use the FCPS school bus transportation that may be afforded to your child. The reduction of vehicle traffic at school starts with individual parents that choose not to use the kiss & ride.

## KISS & RIDE AREA

Most elementary schools in Fairfax County have established an area called Kiss & Ride designed as a safe place for adults in private vehicles to load and discharge children. This area is separate from the school bus area, enabling schools to avoid problems associated with cars passing buses, or parking in bus only zones and fire lanes. It also establishes a pedestrian traffic pattern to keep children safe.

The Kiss & Ride area has several important features:

- Adult supervision is provided by a school staff member, normally assisted by student safety patrols.
  - The area is clearly designated and marked with signs.
  - Private-vehicle traffic can move faster and safer since the vehicles are not in the same driveway as school buses. Drivers are spared the frustration of waiting while up to 80 students exit each bus.
- Remember: It is illegal to pass a school bus loading or discharging students.  
(Code of Virginia §46.2-844.)

## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

In order to ensure the safety of all children, the following rules need to be observed. If all drivers cooperate, the adult supervisor, with the assistance of the safety patrols, will be able to provide an efficient and safe transfer of children.

- Load and discharge children only in the Kiss & Ride area.
- Pull your car as far forward as possible before stopping to load or discharge children. Five or six cars can transfer students at the same time. Watch for directions from the supervisor.
- Load and discharge children from the passenger side of the car only, so they will not have to cross the driveway in front of traffic.
- Remain in the driver's seat. Safety patrols will assist with car doors.
- Keep goodbyes brief; other drivers will be waiting behind you to discharge children.
- Do not pass other cars that are loading or discharging children.
- Exit the Kiss & Ride promptly after loading or discharging children. When picking up children, pull into the Kiss & Ride area and wait in your car. Do not park in the parking lot or at the side of the street and call to children.

## SAVING TIME

You can save time by planning ahead. Here are a few suggestions:

- Arrive early. The busiest time at the Kiss & Ride area is five minutes before the start of classes. Plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the final bell, when the traffic is lighter.
- Adjust for rain. The number of cars using the Kiss & Ride area will increase when it rains. Be patient, and plan on spending a small amount of additional time.
- Carpool with others. Carpools reduce the number of vehicles using the Kiss & Ride area, thus saving time. In addition, carpooling with neighbors can provide some planned "time off" during the week. Inform the school of your carpool plans so school officials will know which adults will be transporting which children.

## EXCEPTIONS

There are a few times when you would not use the Kiss & Ride area:

- If you arrive at a time when no school buses are scheduled for arrive or departure, and the driveway is not closed, you may use the bus loading area. However, be aware there will be no adult supervision in this area at such a time.
- If you must leave your car to enter the school, leave your vehicle in a parking space while you do so.