

Traffic Concerns Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Does DPS have any traffic and pedestrian safety approaches and/or programs the district uses to manage safe walk passages to school?

DPS Transportation has implemented a Commute DPS guide for students, parents and school leaders.

http://transportation.dpsk12.org/schools_departments/commutedps/

- What is CommuteDPS?

Denver Public Schools (DPS) Transportation Services has an abiding interest in implementing innovative transportation services that support the growth and development of the DPS community. In an effort to decrease traffic congestion around schools and increase safety, academic performance and wellness for DPS students, we have collaborated with the City of Denver, Denver Public Health and Denver Safe Routes to School Coalition using a grant from Kaiser Permanente to implement Commute Denver Public Schools (CommuteDPS).

- Does DPS maintain a formal office, or functional unit, specifically dedicated to the management of traffic safety issues?

The Task Force team consists of representatives from the District's Safety, Transportation, Risk Management Departments, Denver Safe Routes, the City and County of Denver's Traffic Engineering Department, Parking Enforcement Team, and the Denver Police Department's Traffic Bureau and police district Community Resource Officers. Currently chaired by the Traffic Engineering Department, the Task Force meets twice annually before school starts in the fall and before schools resumes after winter break, or as needed. Task Force members work closely with individual school administrators to address pedestrian and traffic safety concerns, school bus stopping and parking, right -of-way signage and signaling, and traffic and pedestrian safety education and enforcement. No costs associated. City and County of Denver Department of Public Works is the main city agency for citywide management of traffic issues.

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- Whom should I contact if my child's school has traffic concerns?

DPS encourage parents to bring traffic concerns to the principal's attention at the school. Alternatively, you can call 311 with City and County of Denver or email at pocketgov.com to report traffic concerns. You may also contact Valerie Barrientos at 720-424-1896 or by email valerie_barrientos@dpsk12.org.

- Does DPS have procedures, working group objectives; the district has in place to provide a framework for the management of traffic safety related issues?

DPS and the Task Force team participates with the Safe Routes Steering Committee of thought partners to work together on common projects, goals, and objectives.

- Does DPS use a pre-construction traffic and pedestrian safety assessment during the design phase for new schools?

Not at this time, however, this is a great opportunity to collaborate in implementing this approach.

- Does DPS use a traffic management and safety assessment process, such as Road Safety Audits, to evaluate conditions for existing schools?

DPS collaborates with Denver Safe Routes and Traffic Engineering to conduct a safety assessment when requested by schools. The traffic study takes place in either the AM or PM of school hours depending on the heaviest activity level of vehicles dropping off and picking up students. It can take up three assessments before the city partner implements changes.

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- How does DPS measure success of efforts to improve traffic safety conditions for DPS schools and students? Do you maintain specific Key Performance Indicators for this topic?

The Task Force team and Denver Safe Routes is currently working on establishing a comprehensive program metrics and improving our evaluation capacity and process.

- Does DPS have a Crossing Guard Program?

DPS Safety Department receives grant funds from the City and County of Denver to hire and train individuals who are interested in the position. For Crossing Guard information, please contact Coordinator, Andrea Garcia at 720-423-2577 or email andrea_garcia@dpsk12.org

- Can schools implement a Kiss -N- Go for parents to drop off and pick up their student?

Absolutely, the Task Force team encourages schools to create safe areas designated for student drop off and pick up. This would alleviate traffic congestion around the campus, and if done correctly, can minimize the time to get students dropped off and picked up safely.