

Practical Tips for Opening a New School
<p>The Beginning- Developing Safe Walk-ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Notify proper government agency in very beginning of school building/planning process that walkways will need to be developed. This is usually 3-4 years before expected completion of the school.</i> • <i>Work with school planners to develop building access from yet to be developed walkways/sidewalks, keeping in mind pedestrian safety, bus zone locations and parking lots and drop-off points for children by parents.</i> • <i>Meet with all parties concerned, parents, school administration, transportation, government entity, and builder to discuss the needed walkways for the new school and brainstorm. Possible discussion items: other entrances into back of school, i.e. from apartment or housing development ,or signing, signal lights, need for crossing guard(s), ditches filled in, lighting/street and cross-walks, education of group on regulations and limitations on highways, roads, streets, possible dedicated school crossing signal lights, possible LID and establishment of future easements to new school from undeveloped land.</i> • <i>Prioritize and set time lines, group should meet periodically until opening of the new school.</i> • <i>Develop walk routes.</i> <p>Spring Before School Is Opened:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meet with “new school” parent group to discuss the walking plan for the school. Include administrator(s), transportation, road engineers, etc.</i> • <i>School officials and parents should walk from the new school out to neighborhoods to identify possible unsafe locations.</i> • <i>Observe the area and “see” where people are walking.</i> • <i>Publish and distribute walking route(s) via newsletters, meetings, local newspaper, etc. Offer “open house” to all future parents and students for purpose of discussion, bicycle/walking rules and suggestions for safe walking. This allows parents the opportunity to work with students, maybe walk with them to/from school during summer months, buy “proper winter clothing for walking.”</i> <p>School Opens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Distribute maps to students and parents.</i> • <i>Review every year.</i>

Figure 1. Practical Tips for Opening a New School