

Safe Passage to School

Potential parent priority: *Citywide investments and initiatives to improve school safety as they travel to and from school.*

What is Safe Passage?

The Safe Passage program was started in 2017 to address District student and school safety concerns, especially as students arrive and depart from school. The program is tasked with **understanding and improving safety-related transportation policies that impact DCPS and public charter schools, especially in locations that are deemed as “priority areas.”**

What are the current priority areas?

The priority areas for school year 2022-2023 are:

- Anacostia
- Congress Heights
- L’Enfant and Waterfront
- NoMA - Gallaudet U
- Columbia Heights
- Good Hope Road SE
- Minnesota Avenue
- Petworth/Brightwood

What is the current state of transportation to and from school?

- Nearly **50%** of all DC students and families **attend school outside of their ward of residence.**
- **39%** of all the children who attend DC public schools **travel up to an hour or more to and from school.** Students living in Wards 5, 7, and 8, on average, travel farther to school than students in other wards.
- In a survey conducted by the Office of the Student Advocate in School Year 2019-20, **36% of students replied that they felt uncomfortable or in danger while traveling to school.**
- As of 2023, the only District-wide school buses are available only for students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) requires transportation.
- However, all students are able to ride free on the bus, metro, and DC Circulator through the Kids Ride Free program. DC Connect provides limited bus service to eligible schools in Ward 7 and 8.