

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# PERSONAL SAFETY FOR CHILDREN: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

## What Your Child Can Do

Allentown, PA – February 24, 2006 -- Allentown School District is perpetually concerned about the safety of its 18,100 students while traveling to and from schools. “We periodically release information to parents and students to remind them to be careful by sharing safety tips,” says Gretchen Saul, ASD coordinator of Safe & Drug-Free Schools. “The tips below were sent to students’ homes by letter in Spanish and English earlier this month.” Below is a synopsis of safety procedures for students and parents/guardians to review:

### **Safety Tips for Children:**

- *Always TAKE A FRIEND when walking or riding your bike to and from school. Stay with a group while waiting on corners or at the bus stop. It’s safer and more fun to be with your friends.*
- *If anyone bothers you while going to or from school, get away from that person, and TELL a trusted adult like your parents or teacher.*
- *If an adult approaches you for help or directions, remember grownups needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults.*
- *If someone you don’t know or feel comfortable with offers you a ride, say NO.*

- *If someone follows you, get away from him or her as quickly as you can. Always be sure to TELL your parents or a trusted adult what happened.*
- *If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away and yell, “This person is trying to take me away!” or “This person is not my father (mother)!”*
- *If you want to change your plans after school, always CHECK FIRST with your parents/guardians.*
- *Never play in parks, malls or video arcades by yourself.*
- *If you go home after school and no one is home, carefully check to see that everything is okay as you walk in. Once inside, call your parents/guardians to let them know that you are okay.*

Make sure you follow these tips. Trust your feelings. If someone makes you feel scared or uncomfortable, get away as fast as you can and TELL a trusted adult.

For more information on this topic, please talk with your teacher or principal. Allentown School District: 484-765-4000 or visit [www.allentownsd.org](http://www.allentownsd.org).

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