Where possible road markings and signage will be available to assist drivers in accessing the kiss n ride program.

Maps can also be prepared for families so they have information about the proper location and expectations associated with the PSP.
WHAT IS THE P.S.P.?
The Parent Safety Program is a community-based, non-confrontational program that addresses daily safety problems at schools. The P.S.P. encourages parents to provide a safe school environment by choosing “Safety Over Convenience.”

The program is predominantly geared to an organized “Kiss and Ride” concept dealing with the traffic congestion hazards in the school when parents pick up or drop off their children. Each school has unique problems, therefore the Kiss and Ride will not work at all schools or may not be required. There are other safety programs that can be utilized in these cases.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SAFETY PROBLEMS?
Careless and unsafe behavior in school areas during critical times, such as the daily arrival and departure of students, can create catastrophic and sometimes fatal results. Arrivals and departures most often result in increased pedestrian and vehicular congestion. Jaywalking, running between parked or stopped vehicles, illegal U-turns, unsafe turns, illegal parking, crosswalk offences, opening of doors into traffic and speeding are common traffic safety problems. Vandalism and playground safety are also concerns.

WHO CAUSES MOST OF THESE PROBLEMS?
The majority of traffic safety concerns lie in violations by parents and students, drivers whose practices show disregard for the safety of children, and are choosing convenience over safety.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
The school principal and parents take joint ownership for the safety of the children. Peer pressure can be effectively directed on those parents who choose unsafe and discourteous driving or pedestrian behaviours. You can “Choose Safety Over Convenience”, be courteous and set a good example for parents and their children.

WHO’S INVOLVED?
- The P.S.P. Steering Committee.
- Parent volunteers and co-ordinator(s).
- School staff/teachers and students where applicable.
- Parents/Caregivers.
- The City Transportation Department (ensures proper signs are in place if needed).
- The Police (participation and follow-up enforcement).

WHAT IS THE P.S.P. STEERING COMMITTEE?
It is a partnership of various groups concerned about school safety. There are two Co-chairs and committee members including the co-ordinator(s) from each school.

Parent Safety Program
Implementation Request Form

Name of School:
Address:
Postal Code:
Phone #:
Fax #:
E-mail Address:
Principal:
Vice Principal:
Parent Volunteer Co-ordinator: Phone #:

We have reviewed the Overview and feel that the program would be beneficial at the above school. I request an assessment / meeting for implementation.
Pre-requisite for Implementation

Prior to implementation of the program, the Parent Safety Program requests that you have in place the following:

One parent volunteer who will commit to being the program Co-ordinator for the school.

A minimum of 10 Adult volunteers.

The number maybe less depending on your circumstances and the size of your student population.
The more volunteers you have, the less time they actually have to put in and won’t get burned out.
The volunteers should be Parents of children in the school, however other members of the local community (seniors, etc.) maybe used at the discretion of the Principal and the Co-ordinator.

3. School staff should be aware of the program and support its intention to promote a safe and welcoming environment at the school.

WHAT DOES A VOLUNTEER DO?

Parent Safety Program volunteers monitor safety around the school. They encourage drivers/parents to “Choose Safety Over Convenience” and reinforce safe behaviours.

Volunteers are identified by P.S.P. reflective safety vests and are assigned to specific areas. They may escort children to and from their cars and assist with traffic flow (not traffic direction). A Program Co-ordinator is also a volunteer who oversees the P.S.P. at each school.

Participants

Keep in mind that the program is Community based utilizing volunteers, it still requires support from various groups and officials.

The first and foremost is the School Board, school staff and teachers due to the fact that the program will take place on school property. The School Board must recognize that the program is a viable and cost efficient way to ensure the safety of children.

Local Government recognizes that child safety in the 1990’s is a very important issue therefore City support is also required necessity. City support would consist of traffic assessments of the area in question, and making changes in by-laws and signage where required.

Police support is also required. When the public see that the police are behind the program it will, (a) give the volunteers a sense of support and, (b) as in Edmonton has proven to cut down on the amount of police traffic enforcement hours in program situated areas.
Liabilities

The Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (O.S.B.I.E.) was contacted about the program and possible issues that could arise. The following excerpts will hopefully answer and questions asked.

Liability Insurance Coverage is extended to several areas in addition, OSBIE agrees to reimburse the insured for personal injury suffered by a volunteer while on board businesses with benefits payable as detailed in the schedule of benefits.

Who is Protected

Those who would be protected by this policy include, among others:

- The School Board

Any:
- Employee, Elected or Appointed Official, Appointed Committee Member, Trustee, Volunteer, Chaperon, Board ember, Parent Council Member,
- Anyone who manages, operates, controls or supervises any premises, activity or function for the school board; (e.g. PTA Members)

Students: In School Safety/Bus Safety Patrols.

When are you covered?

When acting on behalf of the school board within the scope of duties, responsibilities, and authority as designated by the school board at any time anywhere in the world.

Benefits of P.S.P.

1. Safer Environment for the Children.
2. Less Traffic Congestion due to organization of traffic flow.
3. Less Road Rage!!!
4. Parents feel secure knowing that other parents are assisting their children from the car and out of harms way.
5. Parking problems are reduced to a minimum.
6. With organized concentration on traffic flow, violations causing safety hazards are drastically reduced.
7. When Things run smoothly, everyone is happier!!

People come closer together through community involvement.