

School Elopement Safety Checklist

A practical printable guide for parents, teachers, and caregivers

School elopement happens when a child leaves a supervised area without permission or notice. This checklist helps families and schools build a safer environment for children with autism, ADHD, developmental delays, anxiety, sensory needs, or other disabilities.

1. Student Information

- ■ Full name, age, and current photograph updated regularly
- ■ Emergency contact numbers shared with school staff
- ■ Medical needs, allergies, and medications documented
- ■ Triggers or situations that increase wandering risk identified
- ■ Preferred calming activities or sensory supports listed
- ■ Communication method documented (speech, AAC, gestures, etc.)

2. Classroom & School Safety

- ■ Classroom doors and gates monitored appropriately
- ■ Staff trained on elopement prevention procedures
- ■ Visual schedules and transition supports used
- ■ Safe break area or calming corner available
- ■ Bathroom, lunch, and playground supervision planned
- ■ Student seated near trusted staff when needed

3. Transportation Safety

- ■ Bus driver informed about elopement concerns
- ■ Pick-up and drop-off routine clearly documented
- ■ Backup emergency transportation contacts available
- ■ Student practices safe walking and waiting routines

4. Emergency Response Plan

- ■ Clear search protocol created for missing student incidents
- ■ Staff know who contacts parents and emergency services
- ■ Recent student photo accessible in emergency folder
- ■ Local authorities informed if wandering risk is severe
- ■ Student ID bracelet or identification card considered

5. Parent & School Communication

- ■ Daily communication notebook or app established
- ■ Regular safety meetings scheduled
- ■ Changes in behavior reported quickly
- ■ Substitute teachers informed of safety needs

6. Skills to Teach the Child

- ■ Practice stopping when name is called
- ■ Teach how to ask for help safely
- ■ Practice identifying trusted adults
- ■ Teach awareness of traffic and parking lots
- ■ Use social stories for safety routines

Quick Safety Tips

- Keep recent photographs updated every few months.
- Use consistent routines during transitions.
- Share calming strategies with all school staff.
- Review the safety plan at least once each semester.
- Celebrate small safety successes with the child.

Prepared for educational and family support purposes.

You may print this checklist and use it during IEP meetings, school safety planning, or home discussions.