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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **It's Walk to School Day! Communities Across the Country Celebrate a Fun, Safe, and Active Trip to School**

**CHAPEL HILL, NC (October 10, 2018)** — Hundreds of thousands of students, parents, school officials and local leaders in communities across the United States will walk to school on October 10, 2018, to celebrate the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual National Walk to School Day.

This year, more than 5,000 schools in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. have registered Walk to School Day events on [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org). The total number of events is expected to grow as celebrations continue throughout October, Walk to School Month.

“Walk to School Day inspires neighborhoods and entire communities to celebrate safety, health and a sense of community. It’s so exciting to see people come together with the common goal of starting children on the right foot so they can thrive for years to come,” said Nancy Pullen-Seufert, Director of the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the coordinating agency for Walk to School Day. “The inspiration continues well beyond Walk to School Day, as the one-day event can increase the number of students who walk or bike to school long after the day of the event. More than half of surveyed event organizers state that these events lead to permanent changes in their communities. This holds promise for improving safety and transportation options for everyone.”

“The fact that Walk to School Day participation grows every year indicates that students and their families want safe, active options for getting around in their communities,” said Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Brandye L. Hendrickson. “FHWA is proud to work with our state and local partners on these efforts.”

The National Walk to School Day media event will take place in Washington, D.C., where local and national officials and partners will gather at Lincoln Park with approximately 250 students and other community members from the Capitol Hill neighborhood, together with the National Center for Safe Routes to School, U.S. Department of Transportation, District Department of Transportation, the FIA Foundation, Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. Students from 17 schools will form “walking school buses” to depart from Lincoln Park.

To learn more about the events and locations of registered U.S. schools participating in Walk to School Day 2018, visit [walktoschool.org/register](http://walktoschool.org/register).

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**About the National Center for Safe Routes to School**

Established in May 2006, the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#), part of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Highway Safety Research Center, helps support communities in changing their culture to support safe and active travel. The National Center's work uses research-based evidence to highlight what works and why, and translates this research into education, professional development tools and training to provide communities the technical support they need to make community-enhancing decisions. As the coordinating organization for Walk to School Day held every October and Bike to School Day held each May, the National Center provides technical support; coordinates online registration, develops resources, and facilitates worldwide promotion and participation. The UNC Highway Safety Research Center has served as the coordinator of Walk to School Day since the event's U.S. inception in 1997. For more information, visit [walkbiketoschool.org](http://walkbiketoschool.org).