

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

2018

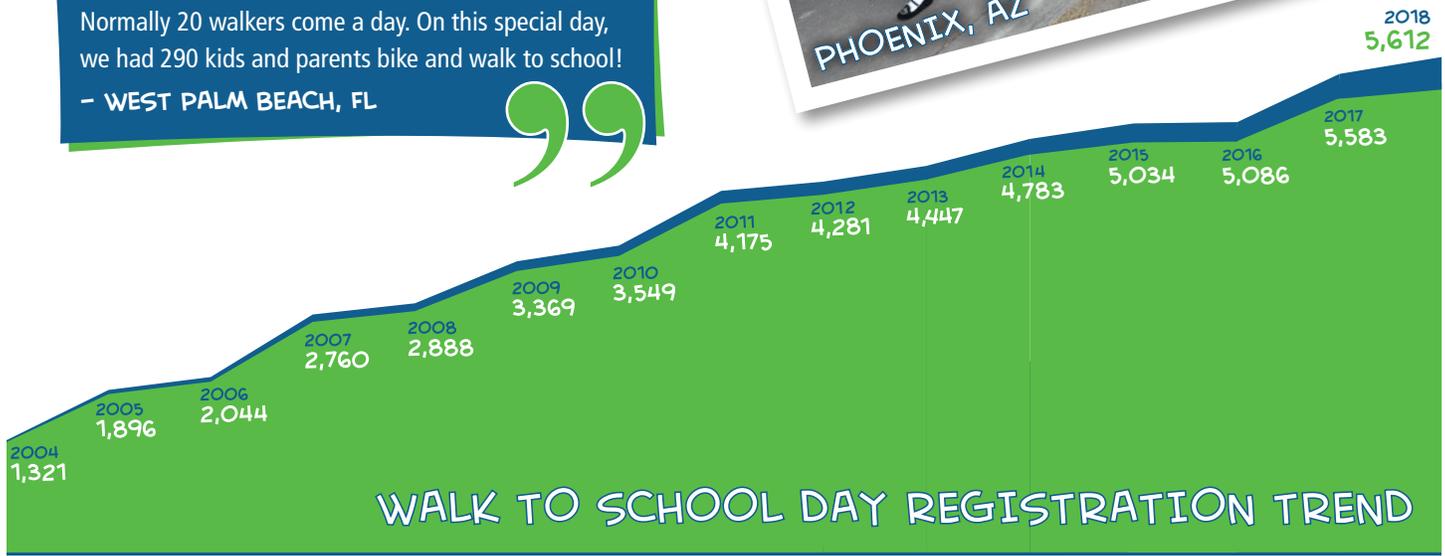
WALK TO SCHOOL DAY INSPIRES PASSION ON THE PAVEMENT

From Pleasanton, California, to Norfolk, Virginia, thousands of communities from coast to coast laced up their sneakers and walked with enthusiasm to participate in Walk to School Day 2018. For the 22nd straight year, Walk to School Day participation set a new record with 5,612 events registered nationwide. Communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia brought together students, parents, teachers, school leaders, local officials, law enforcement, and public health and transportation professionals to show their commitment to safe walking and biking to school.

Walk to School Day organizers express a multitude of reasons for involving their students and communities in the movement. For most, the coordinators' passion on the pavement stems from their desire to help students get the physical activity they need, bring awareness to pedestrian safety issues along school routes and support their schools' ongoing efforts with their Safe Routes to School programs. Other key reasons include increasing school spirit, building a sense of community and providing time for families to spend quality time together.



“ This is the very first time our school did it. We are a very rural school and it was great. Normally 20 walkers come a day. On this special day, we had 290 kids and parents bike and walk to school!
- WEST PALM BEACH, FL ”



WALK TO SCHOOL DAY REGISTRATION TREND



We hold a bike/walk to school day on the first Friday of every month. Music is played from the roof of our school and breakfast is served outside.

- HARRISONBURG, VA



SUSTAINING SUCCESS

Since the inception of Walk to School Day in 1997, participation, excitement and commitment continue to grow every year well beyond the one-day event. According to a post-event survey, nearly one-half of event coordinators reported that their schools promote walking and biking to school throughout the school year with a number of different activities.



We had great participation this year! We counted cars on a normal school day and then on walk/bike day. There were 113 car drop-offs on the regular day and only 39 on walk/bike day! Great results!

- SEVERNA PARK, MD



Our school held four walk to school days in the month of October – every Friday. We consistently had 60 percent or more of our school participate. We look forward to expanding our Safe Routes to School program.

- WALTHAM, MA



CARY, NC

LEADERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE LEADING BY EXAMPLE

When Walk to School Day began in 1997, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan led the events in their cities. More than two decades later, mayors and other elected officials continue to be integral to Walk to School Day celebrations.

In 2018, a mayor or other elected official attended one in five events. Mayors including those in Cushing, OK; Largo, FL; Fremont, NC; Warren, IL; and Westport, CT, showed their support by walking alongside students to school while expressing their commitment to physical activity and having safe environments for kids to walk and bike to school each and every day.

HOOD RIVER, OR MAYOR PAUL BLACKBURN ESCORTED A WALKING BUS FROM A LOCAL PARK TO MAY STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. WHILE LEADING THE WAY, MAYOR BLACKBURN ALSO PLAYED HIS BANJO.



COLLEGE PARK, MD MAYOR PATRICK WOJAHN (PICTURED IN THE MIDDLE) MET WITH STUDENTS OF HOLLYWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND WALKED WITH THEM TO SCHOOL. MAYOR WOJAHN CHATTED WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF WHILE HAVING A SPIRITED WALK.



HOOD RIVER, OR

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. JON KROHMER, NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION; NANCY PULLEN-SEUFERT, NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL; WESLEY BLOUNT, U.S. FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION; NATALIE DRAISIN, FIA FOUNDATION JOIN STUDENTS BEFORE THEIR WALK TO SCHOOL.



WASHINGTON, DC

The National Center for Safe Routes to School, which organizes Walk to School Day, celebrated the national event in the nation's capital. Representatives including those from the U.S. Department of Transportation, FIA Foundation, District Department of Transportation, Washington, DC Mayor's Office, Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center joined hundreds of students, teachers, school leaders, parents and local and national transportation safety professionals at Lincoln Park for an electrifying celebration before kids walked to 17 area schools.



TYLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ALL STAR STEPPERS ENERGIZE THE CROWD AT LINCOLN PARK IN WASHINGTON, DC.



“ We had a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate a new crosswalk improving access to the school campus. Town of Apex staff including the town planner, engineers and the crew who built the crosswalk were in attendance.
 – APEX, NC ”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO CHANGE

Engagement by community members during Walk to School Day has proven to lead to far-reaching and long-lasting benefits in neighborhoods and school districts.

IN 2018, NEARLY **60 PERCENT** OF EVENT ORGANIZERS REPORT THAT WALK TO SCHOOL DAY EVENTS LED TO CHANGES IN POLICIES AND/OR THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH IMPROVED SAFETY FOR CHILDREN WHO WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL.



MOST COMMON POLICY/ENGINEERING CHANGES

- #1 ADDITION OF SAFETY EDUCATION
- #2 ADDITION OF WALKING/BICYCLING PROMOTION TO EXISTING SCHOOL POLICIES
- #3 ADDITION OF SIGNAGE

“ Very impressed that the kids wanted to do more to help clean the area we walk. A trash can has been placed on a trail due to feedback from students.
 – ANDERSON, CA ”

THANK YOU FOR WALKING!

Keep the momentum going – Walk to School Day 2019 will be held on October 2. The passion will continue through pedaling this spring. Celebrate Bike to School Day on May 8, 2019. Registration opens in March. For more information about the events, visit walkbiketoschool.org. Be sure to check out the Beyond the Event section for more information about how to keep safe walking and biking a priority year-round.

