

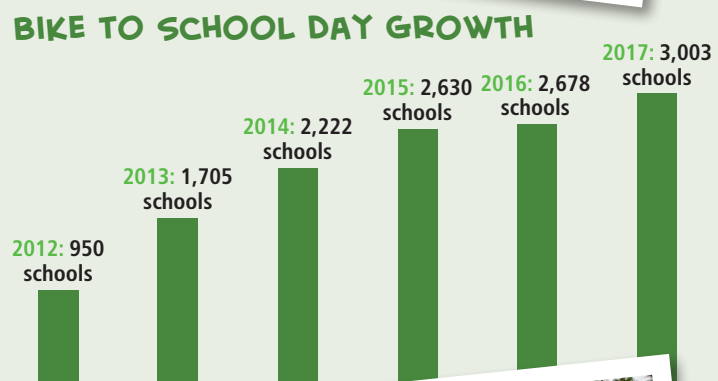
# Record Numbers Come Together to Celebrate Biking and Highlight Safety

On May 10th, 2017, kids and adults across the country pedaled their way to school during the annual bike-powered celebration, National Bike to School Day. More students, parents, community leaders, and state and local officials than ever celebrated the sixth annual Bike to School Day.

In total, 3,003 schools in 49 states and D.C. registered events, setting an all-time high for National Bike to School Day participation. Half of this year's events were held at schools that have participated previously, showing how Bike to School Day can become an annual tradition for communities that give it a try.

Across the country communities bicycled and walked to school to promote safer routes to school and healthier habits. These events were community-led, taking place in small towns and large cities. Some celebrated with bike trains from home to school, others with bike safety events held on school campus during the day, and many schools met at nearby parks or other gathering places to ride to school as a group.

The National Bike to School Day event held in Washington D.C. hosted over 200 students from a dozen schools and included several special guests. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser (pictured to the right), D.C. Councilmember Charles Allen, the Capitol Hill Public School Parent Organization (CHPSPO), and the National Center for Safe Routes to School were joined by representatives from the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, FIA Foundation, Safe Kids and others to help send off students as they departed from the park in organized bike trains. This year, Bike to School Day coincided with UN Global Road Safety Week, an international campaign for road safety that focuses on speed management and improvements to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries worldwide. The Bike to School Day event in Capitol Hill recognized the shared goal of working to improve road safety, particularly by slowing down speeding vehicles.



“ This was a great community building event. The students loved walking together. We are a rural school so we had to be bused to a central location and walk the one mile to school from there. ”

- LYNDONVILLE, VT

## Community-wide Benefits

While Bike to School Day celebrates the benefits of active transportation, it also offers community members and elected officials a chance to highlight the importance of safe and comfortable options for riding a bicycle for the trip to school and share a vision for improvements to safety that can stretch to many destinations. As the words from Bike to School Day event organizers demonstrate, events inspire long-term change, encouraging more active communities and lifestyles:

### INSPIRING WALKING AND BIKING

“ The events tend to serve as catalysts for getting more families to bike and walk to school. The neighborhood event is motivation to get a little more organized, and realize it’s quite doable to incorporate into the routine commute.

- WASHINGTON, D.C.

We saw a significant increase in children biking to school for the last month of school! Bike racks full and crossing guards seeing lots more kids out.

- PITTSFORD, NY

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### BUILDING COMMUNITY BUY-IN

“ Participating in this event has brought attention to our police and town officials that there are students in our neighborhood who walk on a regular basis. It has helped encourage the town to promote the need for a sidewalk and crosswalk near the school.

- CREEDMOOR, NC

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### CELEBRATING NEW AMENITIES

“ We did get more bike racks and we also had new walking paths put in the last few years to increase walking and biking to school.

- GREEN BAY, WI

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### SHOWING THE POPULARITY OF BIKING

“ We had over 200 kids ride bikes to school. We also started a new bike safety program for 2nd, 4th, and 6th graders. It was a huge accomplishment bringing together 2 police depts, 1 park district, 2 schools, and a host of volunteers! A big success!

- GLENVIEW, IL

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## Inspiring Change

Bike to School events can help encourage communities to implement policy or engineering changes that make it safer to walk and bike to school. In 2017, sixty-nine percent of event organizers indicated that their event had an impact on making a policy or engineering change.

### TOP POLICY AND ENGINEERING CHANGES

**22%**

of all events led to the addition of bicycling/walking promotion to existing school policies (such as a school wellness policy).

**22%**

of all events led to the addition of bike racks.

**26%**

of all events led to the addition of required safety education.



## Bike to School Day Giveaway

For the fourth year in a row, the National Center for Safe Routes to School teamed up with Schwinn in celebration of Bike to School Day. This year, the two organizations hosted the Bike to School Day SmartStart Bike Share Giveaway. Ten schools received a set of 10 bikes and 20 helmets in weekly drawings in May. Congratulations to our winning schools:

The Mountain Community School, Hendersonville, NC  
 Peninsula Elementary, Moses Lake, WA  
 Sunflower Elementary, Paola, KS  
 Sioux Trail Elementary, Burnsville, MN  
 Glendale-Feilbach Elementary, Toledo, OH

Chegwin Elementary, Fond du Lac, WI  
 Haubstadt Community School, Haubstadt, IN  
 McKinley Elementary, Wauwatosa, WI  
 Hoover Elementary School, Mason City, IA  
 Cottonwood Middle School, Cottonwood, AZ

## See you next year!

Mark your calendars for upcoming Bike to School Day events on May 9, 2018 and Walk to School Day on October 4, 2017.



Developed by the **National Center for Safe Routes to School** of the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center