



2016

HIP, HIP, HOORAY – IT'S THE 20TH YEAR OF WALK TO SCHOOL DAY!

Twenty years since the first Walk to School Day, community and nationwide commitment to the value of walking and bicycling to school is stronger than ever. More students, families, community members and elected officials celebrated the trip to school this year than ever before. A record-setting 5,086 schools from across the country registered events on walkbiketoschool.org. Nationwide, communities marked the occasion with proclamations, pep rallies, media coverage, mascots and parades.

The National Walk to School Day event in Washington D.C. included more than 100 students from over a dozen schools and featured several special guests. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Deputy Administrator Terry Shelton, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, representatives from Federal Highway Administration, the FIA Foundation, the Capitol Hill Public School Parents Organization, the District Department of Transportation and many other parents and school officials joined energetic Walk to School Day participants from local elementary, middle and high schools as they headed to school. Mayor Bowser showed her city's support for safe walking and biking by signing the official Mayor's Statement on Safe Walking and Bicycling for Youth (see below) during the national event.

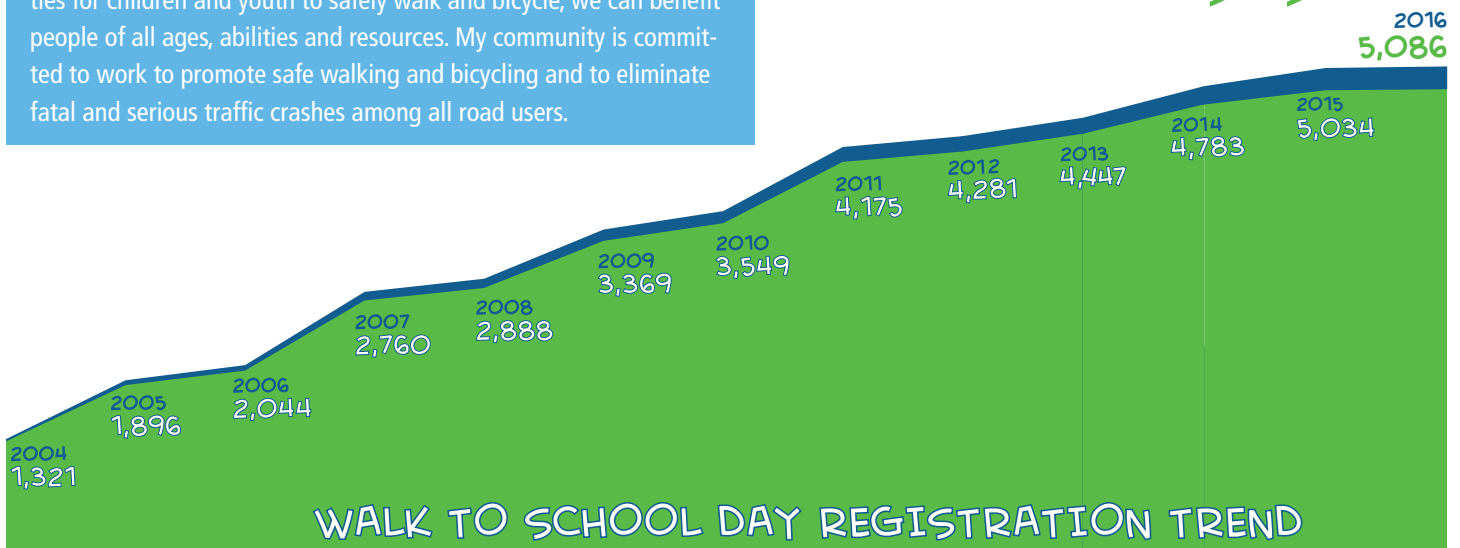


From left to right: DC Council Member Charles Allen, FIA Foundation North American Office Manager Natalie Draisin, NHTSA Deputy Administrator Terry Shelton, National Center for SRTS Director Nancy Pullen-Seufert, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser

Mayors Statement on Safe Walking and Bicycling for Youth

The ability of people to safely walk and bicycle is a vital part of what makes communities thrive. We recognize that by creating opportunities for children and youth to safely walk and bicycle, we can benefit people of all ages, abilities and resources. My community is committed to work to promote safe walking and bicycling and to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes among all road users.

“ Mayor Jones met a walking school bus and helped lead the group. He then helped direct traffic at the front of the school!
 – CHARLESTON, WV ”



“ Mayor York and his wife accompanied us on our walk around the neighborhood and spoke to students about the importance of safety when walking and biking.
 – THOMASVILLE, NC ”



“ Our mayor has been involved in International Walk to School Day since 2012. The event has been held in partnership with our city officials ever since. Mayor C Kim Bracey participates in the planning with our leadership team and the York City Police... She walks, bikes and inspires our young to be active
 – YORK, PA ”

Walk to School Day’s organizing agency, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, partnered with the US Department of Transportation’s Mayors’ Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets to encourage mayors to join local events and talk about their communities’ commitments to child and youth pedestrian safety. Over 1,500 mayors nationwide were invited to participate in the celebration and over 25% of Walk to School Day events held this year included mayors or other elected officials.

Local officials used the event to show their support for health, safety and community livability. Mayor Lorenz in Powell, Ohio, issued a proclamation emphasizing the importance of the event to his community, and Mayor Hartwell in Madison Heights, Mich., announced a public art competition that promotes biking in the city’s downtown district. Other mayors showcased their talents like Mayor Blackburn in Hood River, Ore. who strummed the banjo while leading a walk to a local elementary school.

LONG TERM IMPACT

Many communities and their leaders use this celebration to bring attention to safety concerns and implement policy or engineering changes that make it safer to walk and bike to school. In 2016, **sixty-one percent** of event organizers indicated that their event had an impact on making a policy or engineering change.

TOP POLICY OR ENGINEERING CHANGES

- 21%** OF EVENTS LED TO THE ADDITION OF REQUIRED SAFETY EDUCATION
- 18%** OF EVENTS LED TO THE ADDITION OF WALKING/BICYCLING PROMOTION TO EXISTING SCHOOL POLICIES
- 14%** OF EVENTS LED TO ADDITION TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT NEAR SCHOOLS



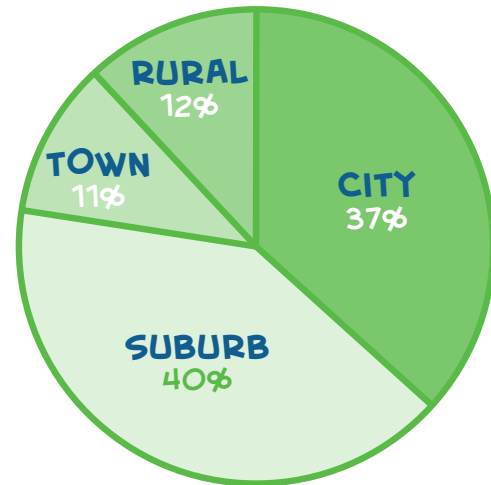
COMMUNITIES OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Communities across the nation celebrate Walk to School Day every year. Some places have safe walking and biking routes for their students to use for the trip to school, while others that lack safe routes participate in the big day with Walk at School events. Using a remote drop-off or designated starting point where families and community leaders meet and walk the remainder of the route together works well for communities that have walkable routes leading up to the school and have students who live too far away to walk from home. No matter the shape or size, communities are endlessly creative in how they show support for Walk to School Day.

“ Our school is in a rural area, so we didn’t focus on walking TO school. Our focus is on getting physical activity, and learning that WALKING anywhere is a great way to enjoy the outdoors while increasing steps in a day.
 – LORIS, SC ”

“ Our event included six elementary schools for the 17th or 18th year in a row. The local police department and school superintendent participated this year... We had 1,050 students participating with their parents, grandparents and caregivers.
 – AUBURN, NY ”

WHERE DID 2016 WALK TO SCHOOL DAY EVENTS HAPPEN?



Based on the following definitions from the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data

- City: Place within a census-defined principal city
- Suburb: Place within an urbanized area and outside a principal city
- Town: Place of population between 2,500 and 50,000 not within an urbanized area
- Rural: Census-defined rural territory outside both urbanized areas and towns

ORGANIZERS DESCRIBE THEIR EVENTS

Walk to School Day events are truly a collaborative effort. When organizers describe their events, several words rise to the top, reflecting the community-wide partnerships inspired by these celebrations. Organizers use words like family, local, police, mayor, district, city, support and success when talking about their events.





We do a joint city/board of education proclamation. The Superintendent and Mayor work with the Principal to create a fun, healthy event for the children.

- PRATTVILLE, AL



FAIRFIELD, CT



PLYMOUTH, NC



The first Wednesday of every month is "Walk to School" Wednesday. Mayor Giordano is on a rotating schedule in which he visits four elementary buildings. He encourages students to walk to school by distributing stickers to those who do walk.

- NORTH PLAINFIELD, NJ



THANK YOU FOR WALKING!

Walk to School Day 2017 will be held on October 4 and this spring, celebrate National Bike to School Day (walkers are welcome, too!) on May 10, 2017. For more information about the events, visit walkbiketoschool.org. And watch for our new, improved website to be unveiled in spring 2017.



ALEXANDRIA, VA



PHOENIX, AZ