

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY 2019 INSPIRES FUN & SAFETY FOR ALL

On May 8, 2019, communities across the nation created excitement about safe bicycling to school during the 8th annual National Bike to School Day. Communities hosted a record-breaking 3,415 registered events during May, continuing to spark passion for pedaling year after year. Approximately one in 29 elementary schools across the U.S. celebrated Bike to School Day. Now that's impressive!

Events were filled with creative ways to encourage wide participation including bike trains traveling from home to school, groups meeting at nearby parks or other common areas to ride to school, and on-campus celebrations for students who live too far away to ride or where conditions are not safe. More than 60% of these events included both walking and biking – bringing together parents, teachers, school leaders, local officials, law enforcement, and public health and transportation professionals to show their commitment to safe and healthy routes to school.

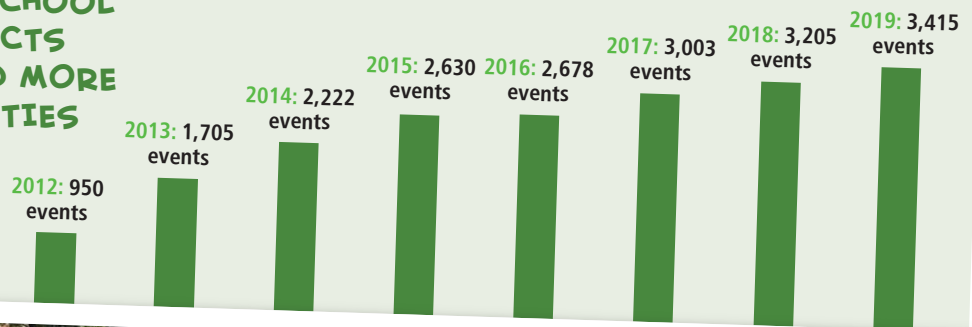
Organizers give many reasons why their communities participate, with the most common being promotion of physical activity, bringing awareness to pedestrian safety issues along school routes and supporting their schools' ongoing efforts to support their Safe Routes to School programs. Other reasons include building a sense of community, providing time for families to spend quality time together and increasing school spirit. Bike to School Day is a time to promote a broader message of safety and support for safe, active travel for everyone.



APPROXIMATELY
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TO SCHOOL DAY.

“ This was our first time hosting an event and it was rainy, but still 50 kids showed up between our two walking school bus routes! The children and adults alike had a blast, and I hope that helps to make this a more frequent activity.
- BOARDMAN, OH ”

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY IMPACTS MORE AND MORE COMMUNITIES



CRANSTON, RI

WALKING AND BIKING ARE A HIT YEAR ROUND

Since the inception of Bike to School Day in 2012 – participation, excitement and commitment continue to grow every year – well beyond the one-day event. According to a post-event survey, more than half of event coordinators reported that their schools promote walking and biking to school throughout the school year, not just as a one-time occasion.



CHEROKEE, NC

“ We first participated in 2017. Since then, we host monthly Bike to School Days and the kids love it!
 - FAIRHOPE, AL ”

“ We started a weekly Bike & Walk to School Wednesday until the end of the year and are starting again in the fall. It was our police chief’s idea! Our entire town supports this weekly effort! :) It’s amazing!
 - RANGELEY, ME ”

“ There seems to be more bikes in the rack on a daily basis since we started this event.
 - DENVER, CO ”

LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS SHOW PASSION THROUGH THEIR LEADERSHIP

Mayors and other elected officials continue to be integral to Bike to School Day celebrations.

Elected officials, including mayors in Toledo, OH; Danbury, CT; Sandpoint, ID; Concord, CA; and Haines City, FL, showed their support by biking or 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.

Whiting, IN Mayor Joe Stahura handed out bike reflectors to all participants and brought Reggy from the Whiting Mascot Hall of Fame. Families and students love seeing the mayor, and it's a great way to start the day. Mayor Stahura encourages students and their families to bike to school to cut down on traffic and noise pollution.



From left to right: Nancy Pullen-Seufert, National Center for Safe Routes to School; Natalie Draisin, FIA Foundation; Marilena Amoni, FIA Foundation Board; and Lord George Robertson, FIA Foundation Board Chairman hold a banner while children from DC area schools break through on their bikes!



The National Center for Safe Routes to School, which organizes Bike 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, Ward 6 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 students biked or walked to more than 15 area schools.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO POSITIVE CHANGE

Engagement by community members during Bike to School Day is linked to far-reaching and long-lasting benefits in neighborhoods and school districts. In fact, more than 65% of event organizers report that Bike to School Day events led to changes in policies and/or their infrastructure which improved safety for children who walk and bike to school.

Siler City Elementary School in Siler City, NC recently installed a .27-mile trail and named it Bulldog Boulevard. The trail gives a safe space for students to learn the importance of being physically active, as well as bike safety on Bike to School Days and social benefits of walking/running with their friends and family. Classes can use the trail during the school day, and an afterschool running club uses it after school.



TOP FIVE POLICY/SAFETY CHANGES



- ADDITION OF SAFETY EDUCATION
- ADDITION OF WALKING/BIKING PROMOTION TO EXISTING SCHOOL POLICIES
- INCREASED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT NEAR SCHOOL
- ADDITION OF BIKE RACKS
- ADDITION OF SIGNAGE

THANK YOU FOR BIKING!

Keep the momentum going – Bike to School Day 2020 will be held on **MAY 6, 2020**. The passion for safe and active routes will continue with walking this fall. Celebrate Walk to School Day on October 2, 2019. 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. Also, join the conversation by following Walk and Bike to School Day on Facebook (facebook.com/walkbiketoschoolday) and Twitter (twitter.com/walkbikeschool).