

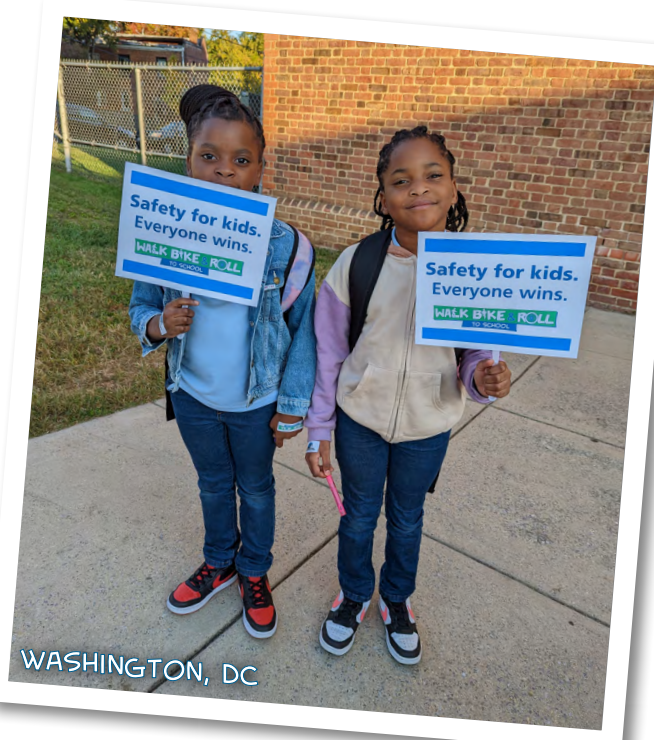


WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

2022

Walk & Roll to School Day participation climbed to 3,233 events, the highest number in the past three years, in October 2022. Participants represented 47 states along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. After re-launching with a new, more inclusive name this year, Walk & Roll to School Day continued its longstanding tradition of providing an opportunity for participants to strengthen community connections; promote accessible, active travel; and get outside for some fun.

This year's national event took place in Seattle, WA, where the National Center for Safe Routes to School presented the Vision Zero for Youth (visionzerooryouth.org) U.S. Leadership Award to Mayor Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle; Greg Spotts, Director of Seattle Department of Transportation; and Brent Jones, Superintendent of Seattle Public Schools. The Award recognized the commitment of Seattle's local government, transportation department and public school system to lead community-engaged, equity-focused efforts geared toward making a great impact on walking and biking safety for its youngest residents. Families, school staff and community leaders walked to school on a "Healthy Street," closed to pass through traffic, but open to people playing and traveling actively.



GATHERING TOGETHER TO WALK & ROLL

Communities make Walk & Roll to School Day meaningful and inspiring by connecting to their reasons to participate. In our post-event survey, Walk & Roll to School Day organizers shared what motivated their communities to participate in this year's event. The top three motivations were increasing school spirit, physical activity and obesity prevention, and building a sense of neighborhood. Each of the top three were selected by more than 70% of organizers responding to the survey, and all three represented a higher percentage of communities than last year. As the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted schools and communities over the past three years, perhaps these motivations reflect how Walk & Roll to School Day helped to reconnect schools and local communities. Participants not only recognized the importance of their local community. They also were motivated more than ever before by joining communities from across the country and the world.

TOP 3 MOTIVATIONS FOR ORGANIZING AN EVENT

1. Increasing school spirit
2. Physical activity/obesity prevention
3. Building a sense of neighborhood

“This was our first year participating. The students and families enjoyed the event and it brought a sense of community engagement and positive spirit into our school that day.

– TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, NJ”



MAKING EVENTS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL ABILITIES

In 2022, we officially relaunched the event as Walk & Roll to School Day to acknowledge and highlight the work schools and organizers do to make active travel to school accessible for students of all abilities. We heard from organizers across the country about all they do to ensure everyone in the school community can participate in Walk & Roll to School events. Many schools make accessibility a focus in their promotional materials, clearly communicating that the event is open for all. Schools also rely on volunteers such as high school students or other adults to assist students who use wheelchairs to roll to school. Many schools provided designated nearby drop-off points, so students who are unable to walk or roll the entire route to school could participate by following an accessible route to school. An organizer in Pinellas Park, FL, shared that for their event they “provide a sign language interpreter...[who] points out the necessary visual cues needed to cross the street safely.”

ADVANCING SAFETY

Safety continues to be a focus for many Walk & Roll to School Day events. More than 40% of organizers reported using their event to advance road safety. In some places, these events offer a chance to educate on safety. This includes educating drivers to be aware of students walking or biking to school and to drive slowly through school zones. Education also includes promoting safe walking and biking skills for students. Other places use the event to draw attention to safety issues. For example, some communities highlight where unsafe crossings limit the ability to actively travel to school on a daily basis or involve local officials, like a city engineer or health department official, to perform walking assessments near schools and identify safety concerns.

IT'S FUN!

Organizers use Walk & Roll to School Day to advance safety and influence change in and around their schools. But for those who participate, it's also a day for fun. Here are some examples of how events got students and adults pumped up and moving:

“ A new popular feature of our Walk & Roll to School Day is a Walk & Roll to School Pep Band, including students from our elementary school and the secondary school (including many former students)! We also had sidewalk art and encouraging words.
— SUNDERLAND, MA ”

“ We partnered with another Hawthorne School in Montana this year on our walk/bike day by doing a friendly competition to see which school had the best participation. This was fun and motivating, and was the first year we officially tracked walk/bike/roll numbers. This will give us a benchmark to build up on in future years.
— HELENA, MT ”

“ We made it a full week (four days) of activities and involved families as much as we could. From photo ops, to daily prize incentives, to sponsorship from the local wellness center and an appearance of our high school football team, we had a blast! We also sent home a BINGO game to involve the whole family and kids returned that for a chance at a free bike helmet or a bike accessories pack that included a speedometer, bell and mirrors for their bike. We got a lot of positive comments about the week!
— HESSTON, KS ”



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Roosevelt's walk to school program has grown tremendously over the years. We would love to share that message with other schools: just get started! Our first tiny walk to school events included only 80 students (school size of 750 students).

This year, there were well over 300 students at Walk to School Day.

– TAMPA, FL

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A TRADITION OF ACTIVE TRAVEL STARTS HERE

Walk & Roll to School Day participants organize events filled with fun that inspire participation year after year and jumpstart ongoing activities throughout the year. Schools have made the event an annual tradition and show growth in their student numbers while involving more of the community with each event. Throughout the year, schools find ways to keep walking, biking, or rolling to school including organizing an ongoing bike bus and holding weekly or monthly walk, bike, or roll to school days. Keep up the activity inspired by Walk & Roll to School Day and join us for the next event: Bike & Roll to School Day on **MAY 3, 2023**.

Check WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG for updates and details or follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



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I really feel like these days help support school spirit in our school and develop a sense of community.

– KANSAS CITY, MO

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS IMPORTANT EVENT POSSIBLE.

LED BY:

SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



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