

WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY 2024

What amazing passion on the pavement! Throughout October, students and families in schools across the United States hit the streets to celebrate National Walk & Roll to School Day. Communities from 47 states and Washington, DC, used WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG to register a total of **4,281 EVENTS**, the highest number in five years.

It's a tradition! Walk & Roll to School Day is an important annual event for many schools.

- Half of the schools participating in 2024 also participated in 2023.
- According to the post-event survey, nearly one-half of events are part of ongoing promotion of walking and biking throughout the school year.

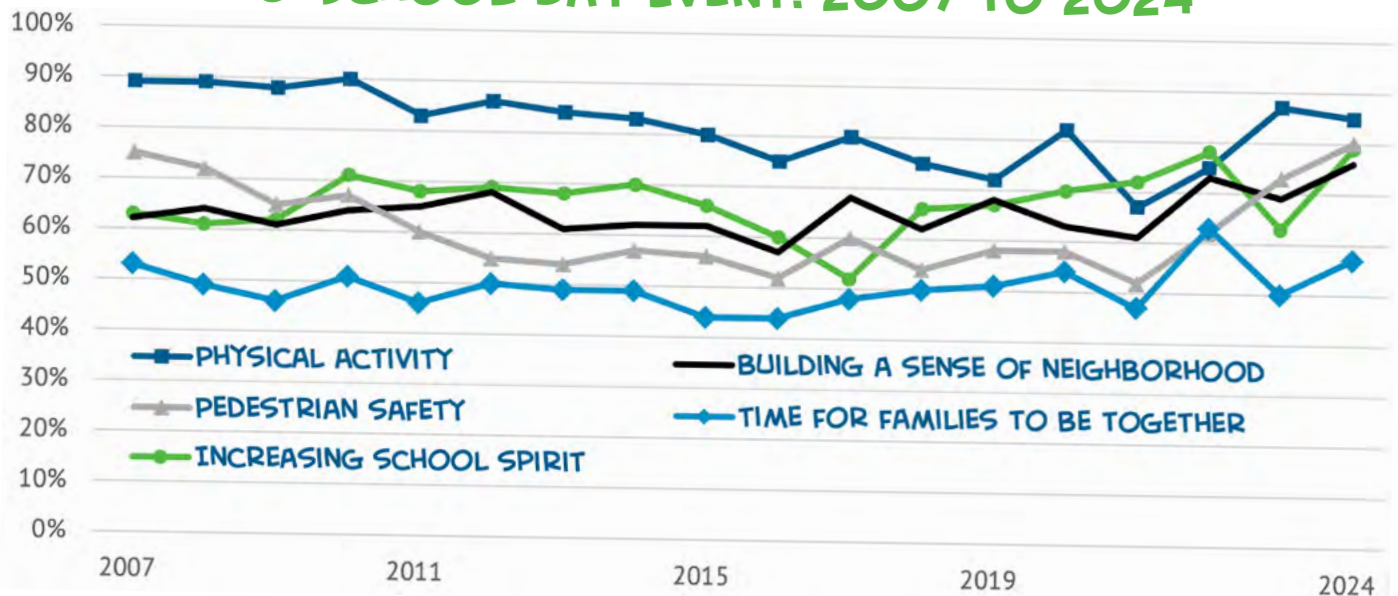


NATIONAL EVENT

On October 9, 2024, the National Walk & Roll to School Day event brought together the National Center for Safe Routes to School with the Mayor of Washington, DC (photo at left), U.S. Department of Transportation, the Council of District of Columbia, the FIA Foundation, and other local and national road safety, education, and health groups. More than 15 schools gathered in Washington, DC's Lincoln Park for a brief program and performances before walking and biking in groups to local schools.



MOTIVATIONS FOR ORGANIZING A WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY EVENT: 2007 TO 2024



A CHANCE TO MOVE AND BE TOGETHER

Communities take part in National Walk & Roll to School Day for many reasons. Event organizers shared a variety of motivations for holding Walk & Roll to School Day events.

These top reasons have spurred a large percent of organizers over the last 18 years of events. The chart above shows the most common responses when we asked “what motivates your school or community to organize an event” and the trend in these responses since we began surveying organizers in 2007. These responses come from the post-event surveys which receive responses from 12 percent to 15 percent of event organizers each year, so they are not necessarily representative of all events.

- As in past years, the opportunity for **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** remains the top reason, with **85 PERCENT** of respondents including it as one of their community’s motivators.
- **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY** was a motivator for **80 PERCENT** of communities, a share that has been increasing over the last several years.
- Other top reasons highlight that an active trip to school on foot, by bike, or through other modes offers a chance for neighbors, the school community, and families to **SPEND TIME TOGETHER**.

“The community feeling is strong as older students from the local high school and middle school, as well as coaches, athletes, and some teachers, join us. Bringing parents, extended family members, and family friends into the event excites the children. Finally, allowing leaders of the community, as well as civic clubs within our community to participate, adds another layer of the ‘community spirit,’ to our event.
- CUSHING, OK”

“We were able to get the city involved and our students were able to paint new crosswalks at school.
- GLENPOOL, OK”

“

We have no sidewalks. Our street is so dangerous, and we want to highlight the need for safer roads. We had over 100 kids show up to demonstrate our community's interest.

- DARIEN, CT

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VOICES FOR CHANGE

Safe streets are crucial for walking, biking, and rolling to school on Walk & Roll to School Day and throughout the year. We heard from several event organizers about all the ways safety is an emphasis point of their events. In some cases, the events offer a chance for students and other community members to see what changes are needed along the route. For example, in Henderson, Nevada, a walk audit was part of the event. Similarly, students in Linden, New Jersey, completed a survey while they walked to school for the event. And in Eastvale, California, city officials used the event to get input from parents on changes to a main road.

Other places used their events to bring attention to changes already in place. For example, in Hoover, Alabama, the event highlighted a new sidewalk, and in Medford, Oregon, the organizers used the event to bring attention to new crosswalk signals.



PLANO, TX

“

Students really enjoy it, and it has brought a good sense of school community to our students and staff.

- SCOTTSBLUFF, NE

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INVESTING IN CHANGES FOR ACTIVE TRIPS

Approximately one-half of the organizers surveyed report some kind of policy or built environment change as a result of their events. These changes include the posting of new signage around schools, changes in policy to support active travel to school, introduction of school safety education, bike rack additions, and building of new sidewalks, paths, crosswalks, or bike lanes. Altogether, Walk & Roll to School Day continues to inspire a variety of ways to make walking, biking, and rolling to school a regular, everyday activity.

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The sense of community we get from large events is fabulous. No matter the ask, someone is willing to step up and help out.

- ROCHESTER, MN

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INCLUSIVE EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Community, school spirit, and time with families were all motivations for event organizers. Ensuring that every student can participate, regardless of ability, helps deepen all students' places within the school community. Event organizers reported on all the ways they make their events accessible and open to students with disabilities. For some this involves establishing an accessible, ADA-compliant route for the event, and being sure to promote the event to the whole school community.

Many organizers also recognize how Walk & Roll to School Day may affect students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Organizers planned ahead to provide noise-canceling headphones, sensory objects, or other equipment, as well as additional staff or volunteers to provide support. This level of planning and effort helps to broaden the community involved in Walk & Roll to School Day.



BRING ON 2025

Excitement and participation in 2024 has been inspiring. Join the fun as celebrations continue in 2025. Next up: National Bike & Roll to School Day on **MAY 7, 2025**. Check out [WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG](https://www.walkbiketoschool.org) for more information on ongoing activities and future events.



It was our first time participating in the event and was so well received that we are planning to host a Bike & Roll to School Day in May! Being in a rural town that is not conducive to walking (little to no sidewalks), this was a great opportunity to encourage them to explore our trails.

- SALEM, CT



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



THANK YOU TO THE FIA FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORTING THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL EVENT IN WASHINGTON, DC.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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