

WASHINGTON, DC



BIKE & ROLL

TO SCHOOL DAY

2026

POWERED BY COMMUNITY

In May, students and members of their school communities across the country strapped on their helmets, laced up their shoes, and went outside to pedal, walk, or roll their way to school for National Bike & Roll to School Day 2026. This year saw **2,503** schools registered for the event, representing **44** states and Washington, DC. Event organizing teams put in hard work to make these events reflect their communities, ensuring that fun was at the forefront.

This report focuses on Bike & Roll to School Day stories that show off the variety of ways events meet community needs and highlight local creativity. New this year, schools could ride to a soundtrack with a curated playlist sourced from Bike & Roll to School Day supporters made available online for the event and beyond.

Alongside Bike & Roll to School Day, the National Center for Safe Routes to School presented Fort Collins, CO, with the 2026 Vision Zero for Youth Leadership Award. The city's dedication to safety and access that led to high rates of students walking and biking can serve as inspiration to any community hoping for the same results.



AUSTIN, TX



NEW YORK CITY, NY

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ZOHAN MAMDANI RIDES WITH A BIKE BUS FOR BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY.

FROM ONE DAY TO EVERY DAY: USING EVENTS TO INSPIRE RIDING MORE OFTEN

Bike & Roll to School Day comes around once a year, but communities want the excitement of an active trip to school to go beyond the single day event. Many places use the event as a chance to provide students and families with what they need to ride again and often. In Venice, FL, this includes giving out **BIKE LIGHTS** to all the students who participate, helping them ride safely not only on the way to school but also beyond the school day. In Clermont, IN, event organizers continued with the safety theme and offered lights and **HELMETS** to students who needed them.

Other schools sought to make riding easier and more frequent by showing where they could bike in their communities. In Pittsburgh, PA, event organizers gave city bike **MAPS** to all the participants. Through this, students could see that biking wasn't just an option for the trip to school, but also an option to reach other destinations around the city. In Cedar Falls, IA, the organizers also prioritized mapping routes to schools and made those available for the event and beyond. A Cedar Falls event organizer shared, "SRTS works with the city bike and pedestrian commission and school officials to create 'preferred' walking and biking maps of each neighborhood school (6 elementaries) in the district."



STUDENTS TRY THE NEWLY LAUNCHED TRAFFIC GARDEN IN ATLANTA, GA.

INNOVATION ON BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY

The enthusiasm around Bike & Roll to School Day often brings crowds of students riding, walking, or rolling to school. Event organizers take this opportunity to try something new, giving as many students as possible the chance to experience an innovation. In Atlanta, this year's Bike & Roll to School Day served as a venue for launching a **NEW TRAFFIC GARDEN**, a dedicated space for children to practice bike riding and safety skills. An event organizer highlighted the event and its importance in leading to further innovation, saying, "The event was a pivotal moment in our community, launching an initiative to establish more traffic gardens throughout the City of Atlanta. This initiative not only beautifies our neighborhoods but also introduces vital concepts like Safe Routes to School. By highlighting these efforts, we can work together to create a safer environment for our youth, ensuring they can navigate our roadways with confidence and security."

In other places, like Ambler, PA, and Washington, DC, event organizers used the day to show what could be possible with safer places to ride by creating **TEMPORARY BIKE LANES**. In Washington, DC, this was a chance to show neighbors the benefits of safe, dedicated lanes. They planned the Bike & Roll to School Day route to use a street identified for a potential bike lane that is facing some local resistance.

In Seattle, the **SCHOOL STREETS** program, which reserves street space near schools for active travel and other activities before the school day, has been expanding over the past few years. While not a new effort, one school used Bike & Roll to School Day as a way to celebrate its School Street and draw enthusiasm to using it in the morning. The event organizer remarked, "We held the event on our School Street, which was a fun way to catch everyone coming in and to reinforce the School Street is for people."

ROLLING WITH BIKE BUSES

BIKE BUSES continue to be a big part of Bike & Roll to School Day, and communities use the event multiple ways to celebrate bike bus group rides. In some cases, the event is a perfect time to try it for the first time and get the support needed and student participation to try it out. In 2026, a school in Severn, MD, had their first bike bus as part of the event. The local organizers commented, "With support from the local police department we did our first bike bus from the local church to school. We had over 50 people riding together as police helped with traffic safety and clearing the roads on ATVs. So much support was had from the community and we are looking forward to doing it again."

Many communities hold regular bike buses throughout the year. Bike & Roll to School Day, held as the school year nears its end, is a great time to celebrate what the bike buses have accomplished. Schools use this time to recognize how bike buses encourage students to ride to school safely while having loads of fun. A school in Cedar Falls, IA, highlighted this participation, saying, "The school's community organizes a seasonal bike bus from August-November and March-May every Friday, with 3 routes averaging 75 students, or 7 percent of the student enrollment, and an additional 5 percent walk or bike on their own. The school is actively adding more bike racks." In Washington, DC, a school used the event to try something new for an ongoing bike bus, by mapping out and riding on a new route.



NO ONE RIDES ALONE

When planning ahead or on the day of the event, partners make Bike & Roll to School Day possible. Partners highlighted by event organizers include:

- Community advocacy groups
- Elected officials
- Fire departments
- Law enforcement officers
- Local healthcare groups
- Municipal staff
- Parents and parent teacher organizations
- Public health representatives
- Teachers and school staff





MINNEAPOLIS, MN

COMING TOGETHER: BEING PART OF THE OFFICIAL BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY COUNT

For Bike & Roll to School Day, event organizers across the country register on [WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG](https://www.walkbiketoschool.org) to add their schools to the map, showing their community, neighboring schools, and the nation that they will rally their school communities for an active trip to school in May. Organizers take the time to register for a variety of reasons.

Some organizers register to show that they are joining others in participating, coming together for a shared purpose to support active routes to school. This may be with their communities, at a local level, or to join the national movement.

"As the local trauma injury prevention coordinator, I registered different schools the past two years in our catchment area. Our pediatric trauma injuries involving e-bike and pedestrians in this age group have trended up. This is a great way for me to support the cities and schools that want to partner with us and have community focus and buy in together."

– SAN CLEMENTE, CA

"I live in this neighborhood and want to build a strong sense of community with my students while promoting an active lifestyle and care for the environment."

– ROCHESTER, NY

"Instead of feeling alone we can feel like we are part of a bigger community – that is building community by walking/biking together."

– MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN

For others, registering their event is a way to make it real and official. By registering their participation, these organizers know that others, locally, statewide, or nationally, will see that they are part of the national event.

"We started a bike bus this school year and are looking to build institutional awareness and recognition within our school and district. The opportunity to register the event makes it 'real' to other community members, administrators, and elected officials."

– BALTIMORE, MD

"We had informally done the walk to school day in the past, and we wanted to officially join the event this year."

– NORCROSS, GA

WHAT'S NEXT FOR WALK, BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL?

Join thousands of schools across the country for the fall event, Walk & Roll to School Day, on **OCTOBER 7, 2026**. Next year's Bike & Roll to School Day will be on **MAY 5, 2027**. Keep up to date and find support for planning events at [WALKBIKETOSCHOOL.ORG](https://www.walkbiketoschool.org).

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



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