



October Walk to School Month

Including Students Who Live Too Far to Walk

These days there are few schools where all students live close enough to walk or bicycle to and from school. In an effort to **include all children**, schools may want to consider offering options for bus riders and students driven in single-family cars. Here are a few examples of events and activities to inspire planning your Walk and Bike to School event.

Encourage Parents to “Park and Walk”

A pre-determined staging area can act as the meeting place for families who drive and then park and walk their children the remaining distance to school. Church parking lots or shopping centers that are approximately ½ to ¼ mile from the school make great staging areas.

Station Volunteers at Designated Sites

Adult volunteers stationed at designated sites in neighborhoods near the school can meet with students who are dropped off by parents and walk the remaining distance to school together. These volunteers can be school staff members, parents or guardians, or adults who live in the vicinity of the school. If it's known that a large group of children will be showing up at a designated site, be sure to have at least two adults supervise the walk – one at the front of the group and one at the rear. You will need to publicize the location and time of departure from each designated site. Make sure to talk to neighbors around these designated sites to let them know your intentions.

Designate a Bus Drop-off Site

Work with the school district and bus drivers to designate a bus drop-off site close to the school. Place adult volunteers at this site who can then walk students safely to school.

Host a Walk to School Parade

Invite elected officials, families, and students to meet at a specific location or at several different locations near the school and walk to school together. Consider having buses drop-off students at a designated location, and encourage parents who drive children to drop them off at this location.

Walk at School during the School Day

Students can walk around the school track, along a designated walking course set-up on school grounds, or even just around the school site. This can happen before or after school, during recess or lunch, or during physical education or health class. Holding an on-campus walking parade with students and staff on Walk to School Day can be one way to formally encourage students to walk during school hours.

Tracking Miles Walked

The school can promote walking and bicycling by having students track the miles they walk or bicycle. This can be to and from the bus stop, on the school campus during school hours such as during recess, or even during evenings and weekends. This allows students who live too far to walk or bicycle to school to participate.

