



Lakewood Elementary School
Durham, NC

North Carolinians Show their Support for Safe, Walkable Communities During Walk to School Day 2017

Another amazing Walk to School Day celebration in North Carolina! Communities statewide hosted parades, organized walk at school activities, and invited local leaders for the trip to school. By the end of Walk to School Month, more than 70 counties held 318 registered events at schools.

North Carolinians celebrated the big day by hosting events of all sizes and types. A community in Rutherfordton invited their local fire department to join the celebration by having the fire truck lead the students on their route to school. In Battleboro, high school students joined middle school students for a celebration with health related activities, murals, and an outdoor classroom. And in Elizabeth

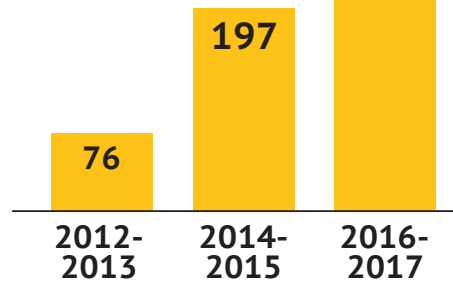
City, students competed across grade levels to see who could walk the most laps during P.E.

This year, Lakewood Elementary School in Durham, NC hosted the state's featured Walk to School Day event. More than two hundred students gathered with city officials, police officers, advocates and community members for their trip to school. North Carolina Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary of Multi-Modal Transportation Julie White and Durham City Council Member Don Moffitt showed their support during a pep rally where they greeted students and spoke about the importance of physical activity and safe walking and biking habits.

Community Support

Walk to School Day events are a great way to bring the entire community together. Events help families, schools and communities experience the benefits and joy of walking to school. These celebrations are also a great way to build support for child and youth pedestrian safety. This year, in post-event surveys North Carolina Walk to School Day organizers reported that over 40% of events included a mayor or other elected official.

Two-Year Moving Average of NC Registered Schools*



* WTSD registrations tend to fluctuate yearly in each state. A common way to highlight longer-term trends is to calculate something called a “moving average” to smooth out short-term fluctuations in schools’ WTSD registrations.

Leading to Long-Term Change

Walk to School events can help encourage communities to implement policy or engineering changes that make it safer to walk and bike to school all of the time, not just on special event days.

Based on post-event survey responses in NC (74 surveys), nearly 45 % of event organizers in North Carolina indicated that their 2017 event led to planned, or already completed, policy or engineering changes.

Top Policy or Engineering Changes

19% Addition of signage that supports safe walking/bicycling to school

19% Addition of safety education

Every year we have an increase in the number of family members participating.

– Weldon, NC



Tryon Elementary
Tryon, NC



New Kituwah Academy
Cherokee, NC

The North Carolina Active Routes to School Project

Walk to School Day events happen with the help of volunteers and professionals around the state who care about safety and giving people choices for how they get around in their communities such as the Active Routes to School coordinators.

Active Routes to School is a NC Safe Routes to School Project supported by a partnership between the NC Department of Transportation and the NC Division of Public Health. Through this project there are ten Active Routes to School project coordinators working across North Carolina to make it easier for elementary and middle school students to safely walk and bike to school. The project coordinators work with partners in their communities to increase: one-time awareness events about the importance of Safe Routes to

Our school devoted the entire day to healthy living. It was a huge success!

– Marion, NC

School, the number of ongoing programs that encourage walking and biking to or at school, trainings on how to implement Safe Routes to School-related activities, policies that support walking and biking to or at school and safety features near schools.

In addition to working directly with schools, the project coordinators work within communities to identify opportunities for shared use of facilities and Complete Streets to improve access to physical activity.

Gave our county police officers the opportunity to come into our school and speak to the children about bike and pedestrian safety not only in/around school but in neighborhoods where the students live.

– Polar Branch, NC

Background on Walk to School Day



Walk to School Day began in 1997 as a one-day event in the US to build awareness for the need for communities to be safe and walkable. Over time, this event has come to support and inspire year-round safe routes to school and a celebration each October. Today, thousands of schools across the country – from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico – participate every October.

Participation continues to increase each event we have! On walk to school day, our carpool traffic was reduced by 50%! We know because we counted cars.

– Cary, NC

Save the Date

Walk to School Day 2018 will be held on October 10. For more information about the events, visit walkbiketoschool.org or reach out to your Regional Active Routes to School Coordinator at <http://tinyurl.com/activeroutes>.

