



Kindergartners walking with police officer at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Schenectady, N.Y.

What is the Walk to School Campaign?

Walk to School Day began in 1997 and grew into an annual national and international event focusing on children and adults walking or bicycling to school. Every year, on the first Wednesday in October, thousands of people in the United States and twenty other countries walk to school together to encourage parents, students and local officials to:

- Develop life long safe, walking habits.
- Promote the health benefits of walking.
- Realize how much fun walking can be!
- Create safe and more walkable communities.
- Spend healthy, active time with friends, family and the community!

Join a growing number of communities and schools with Walk to School activities!

Go to www.walktoschool.org to find out about this year's October event and visit www.iwalktoschool.org to see what other countries are planning.



Sponsored by:

New York State Partnership for Walk Our Children to School

For more information contact:

New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, Pedestrian Program at (518) 474-5111 or visit www.safenyny.gov

New York State Department of Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program at (518) 457-7664 or visit <https://www.dot.ny.gov>

Be Active New York State at (716) 851-4052 or visit www.BeActiveNYS.org

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Positive Steps for Change in New York State



Join communities and children in New York State and around the world as we walk or bicycle to and from school!

* YOU can make streets a safer place for children to walk and bicycle to school.

- * Neighbors
- * Clergy
- * Parents & Family
- * Students
- * Elected Officials
- * Business Owners
- * Health Educators
- * Teachers & School Administrators
- * Traffic & Safety Officers
- * Emergency Response Teams

You can make it happen!

- 👉 Enlist the support of local schools.
- 👉 Start or join a planning group.
- 👉 Become an event coordinator.
- 👉 Invite friends and family members to walk.



Students in Buffalo, NY smile for a snapshot on Walk Our Children to School Day.

Coordinating a Walk

Planning a walk in your community is not hard. Also, it is one of the best things you can do to: raise general awareness about the walkability of your community; increase knowledge about pedestrian safety among the youth of your neighborhood; and provide an opportunity for kids and parents to get exercise, improve their health and have some fun.

Here are some easy steps to get you on your way:

- Involve community leaders and people who can create change. Your community has many people who can help make your event a success. Let them know about the walk and find ways to involve them.
- Your event can be something that truly represents your city or town. Invite your state and local public officials. Enlist the help of parents, teachers, local business people and community organizations to help coordinate your walk. Include parent teacher organizations, local emergency medical services, fire, police and public health departments.
- Publicize and promote your event. Develop a press release with details about your event and distribute the release to local newspapers, television and radio stations. Samples are available on the web site under resources.
- Register your event on the national web site so other communities can learn from your success and you can learn from them.

For more information, resources
and to register your event,
please visit www.walktoschool.org.



Walk Our Children to School Event - October 2001
at Public School #16, Albany, New York

"In New York State, twenty percent of all reported pedestrian injuries and fatalities occur among children 5-14 years old. Dependence on automobiles has contributed to childhood obesity, one of our greatest public health challenges. One in five children in the United States are overweight and the level of physical activity is at an all time low. Until our communities are planned and built with people as the focus and enable children to safely walk and bicycle to school, we will continue to see a decline in the quality of life for us all."

– New York State Partnership for
Walk Our Children to School