

Include Students When It's Too Far or Unsafe

Here are some ways to include students who can't walk or bike from home because of distance, safety concerns, or a disability.

Set Up a Park and Walk Site

Park and walk sites are off-campus places, like parks, libraries, and churches, with enough space for kids and adults to congregate and for cars and busses to park or drop-off. They enable participation from kids who can't walk or bike from home and reduce traffic congestion near the school, creating a better walking and bicycling environment. Here's a way to do it:

- Pick a site. Consider kids' abilities and how much time you have. Be sure to get approval from the person who owns or manages the site.
- Map out a safe route and walk it. This'll give you a better sense of timing and where kids may need assistance.
- Recruit volunteers to serve as chaperones and help kids across intersections. Reach out to local officials and law enforcement.
- Provide pedestrian safety education reminders before and during the walk.
- Let parents know where to go and the route kids will take.

Organize a Walk at School or Neighborhood Walk-About

Organized walks on school grounds or through nearby neighborhoods with safe routes are a great way to include kids who can't walk or bike from home. They can happen before, during, or after school...even on weekends! Here's a way to do it:

- Consider kids' abilities and how much time you have.
- Map out a safe route and walk it.
- Recruit volunteers. Reach out to local officials and law enforcement.
- Provide pedestrian safety education reminders before and during the walk.



Kids walking home after school at Hawthorne Elementary in Atlanta. Plan your walk and bike to school event to include all students, including children with disabilities.

- Let parents know what it is happening. Recognize that permission slips may be required for neighborhood walk-abouts.
- Consider coordinating with other school or neighborhood events, such as mandatory emergency evacuation drill.

Hold a Safety Assembly

Assemblies are great way to educate students about pedestrian safety, personal safety, helmet use, bicycle readiness, and more. Potential speakers include law enforcement, safety advocates, bike/ped advocates... even students! Consider including as part of a SAFETY WEEK!

Involve a Special Education Professional

Special education professionals can help you plan an event that includes children with disabilities. For more, see http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/guide/encouragement_ongoing_activities.cfm

Got questions? Your School Outreach Coordinator is here to help.