



California Walk to School Headquarters

The California Center for Physical Activity, a program of the California Department of Health Services, operates California's Walk to School Headquarters, which provides materials, ideas and

technical assistance needed to get a Walk to School program started in a neighborhood. Register online at www.cawalktoschool.com to access downloadable materials which provide the ABCs of walking to school, including the following:

- **A Walk to School proclamation for school boards.**
- **A Walk to School brochure — available in English and Spanish.**



- **A walkability checklist in 11 languages that helps students, parents and school officials identify safety and infrastructure issues that pose barriers for children walking to and from school.**
- **Press materials that can be localized.**

For more information about these and other Walk to School resources, or to join our monthly conference calls for Walk to School coordinators, email walktoschool@dhs.ca.gov or call the Headquarters toll-free at (888) 393-0353. We can also connect coordinators with experts who can provide technical assistance on various issues, such as improving school walkability or applying for Safe Routes to School funding.

“On the first International Walk to School Day, we had nine schools involved with 75% to 95% of kids participating. We had no traffic on our roads and it was just a sight to behold. Now, four years later, we have 40 schools exploring the program and have been able to reduce traffic by up to 13% between fall and spring. We've brought in more than \$1 million in grants to improve our streets and we've noticed that there are more adults and children walking and biking for their everyday needs.”

Wendi Kallins
Program Director
Marin County Safe Routes
to Schools



About Us

The California Center for Physical Activity, a program of the California Department of Health Services, creates opportunities for everyday physical activity by connecting partners to active living resources and helping develop more walkable and bikeable communities for the state's diverse population. The Center works through strategic alliances with physical activity experts, statewide coalitions, local health departments, community-based organizations and like-minded public- and private-sector partners.

Projects of the California Center for Physical Activity are nationally — and internationally — renowned. The Center's work to promote more walk- and bike-friendly communities is commended for its ability to engage non-traditional partners such as transportation engineers and land use planners. The Center's work to establish community-based physical activity programs for older adults serves as a model across the nation and has received state, national and international honors.

Center projects include:

ACTIVE AGING COMMUNITY TASK FORCES have been established in 31 counties throughout the state to increase the number of Californians over 50-years-old who daily engage in physical activity. The Task Forces implement community-based physical activity programs aimed at improving strength, balance and mobility; maintaining functional fitness; and reducing the risk of chronic disease and falling among older adults.

HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION NETWORK assists California's local officials with ways to design more walk- and bike-friendly communities. The Center partners with California and national experts with real-life experience in building and redesigning communities to be walk- and bike-friendly and collects and organizes input from these experts that can be shared with communities across the state.

CALIFORNIA'S WALK TO SCHOOL HEADQUARTERS provides all the materials, ideas and technical assistance needed to get a Walk to School program started in a neighborhood. Whether hosting a first Walk to School event or conducting a year-round program, our tools, services and technical assistance can help build a tailored program for school districts statewide.

California is the first state in the nation to offer **WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS** that are led by trained, in-state experts. The four-hour workshops convene community stakeholders and serve as the impetus for policy and environmental changes that make it easier and safer to walk in a community. Workshops can focus on safe routes to school, safe routes to transit and safe routes for seniors.



“Your office has provided training and technical assistance to help county health departments initiate different physical activity-related programs. We wouldn't be where we are at today without your help. You've provided good program models and follow-up assistance.”

Sara Sundquist
Health Education Specialist
Shasta County
Public Health Department