



**W A L K T O S C H O O L**  
**S U C C E S S S T O R I E S**



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Get sponsors for support and spirit.</b></p> <p>Support from local groups and businesses build community spirit. Ask for donations, people-power and money as you plan your event. Sponsors can be a grocery store or fast food restaurant, service club or local business.</p> <p><u>Cullen Elementary School in Glendora</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local grocery stores provided healthy snacks to all the walkers.</li> <li>▪ Webelo Cub Scouts handed out snacks and were honorary crossing guards.</li> <li>▪ AAA insurance provided 'safe pedestrian' pamphlets, which were sent home with each student.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hold a class-by-class competition.</b></p> <p>Reward the class with the most students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk to school</li> <li>• Wear decorated shoes</li> <li>• Have the most parents walking</li> <li>• Turn in a walkability checklist</li> <li>• Complete a walking adventure diary</li> <li>• Participate in pedestrian or bicycle safety trainings</li> <li>• Bike to school</li> </ul> <p>All walkers at <u>Hope School in Santa Barbara</u> received a water bottle and a certificate congratulating them for walking. Students in classrooms with the most walkers also received a free carnival ticket.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hold a "Best Ways to Get Your Parents to Walk to School with You" contest.</b></p> <p>Have students come up with one-sentence ideas for getting parents to walk with kids. Get a panel of local radio, TV, and news journalists as judges; this assures coverage in local media too. Reward both creativity and feasibility. Compile a top 10 list, printed with the winners' names.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interview people who walk a lot.</b></p> <p>The postman, police officers on foot patrol, neighbors who walk for exercise ~ these are role models for walking. Children could learn a lot about this safe and healthy lifestyle by interviewing them, asking...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What do you see because you walk a lot?</li> <li>▪ What do you think needs to be improved for more people to walk?</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Idea for commuter schools.</b></p> <p>Many students attending <u>Bullis-Purissima School in the Los Altos Hills</u> live more than one mile from school. Nine staging areas were set up, from 1/3 - 1/2 mile away from school, and walkers traveled in "walking school buses" from each area to the school.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prepare your favorite shoes for the walk.</b></p> <p>Your feet will do the walking, let them also do the talking! Create and/or choose special footwear for the event. Have a contest for creativity! Whether you wear old loafers, air pump action shoes, yellow duck boots, or worn-down sneakers - you can still walk!!</p> <p><u>Springer Elementary School in Mountain View</u> and various schools in <u>Los Altos</u> had students decorate their shoes as "Crazy" feet during Walk to School Month.</p>

**Create diaries and memory maps.**

Help children who don't usually walk the school route become aware of the walking environment. Ask them to write down or draw what they saw, how they felt, what was beautiful, what would make the walk safer and what changes would make them more likely to walk again soon.

Every child in the Lemon Grove School District was given a safety brochure and walkability checklist. As families walked to school they documented problem areas which hindered a safe trip.

Students at Bayview Elementary in Santa Cruz were given maps of suggested pedestrian and bicycle routes. They were instructed to map out their routes. Safety brochures were distributed to parents, and healthy breakfast goodies were also provided.

**Hold a poster contest. Involve dignitaries.**

Students at Raymond Temple School in Buena Park created posters with a "Safe Ways to Walk to School" theme. Special guests were invited to the walk and a special assembly. Dignitaries included: the mayor, city manager, city councilmen, policemen, firemen, and Snoopy from Knotts Berry Farm!

When the morning school bell rang, everyone reported outside for a quick special assembly. The poster contest winners were announced to the school and the student introduced his/her special guest. The mayor presented the school with a special "Walk" proclamation.

**Highlight traffic problems that need fixing.**

Ask newspaper, radio and TV reporters to do a story on why slow speeds are important around schools, and about what the community is doing about speeders. Invite traffic officers to monitor school zones to discourage speeders.

Community members and police officers helped students to cross streets in the Reedley School District. "McGruff the Crime Dog" handed out "badge" stickers to students at Lincoln School. The Reedley Police now are out in force on the first day of school each year, reminding motorists to be aware of children. Reedley city staff and school district staff have agreed to meet regularly at each site to do some problem solving.

**Make drop-off zone safer.**

With permission and assistance from local traffic officers, direct people who are driving to an alternate route so walkers can congregate safely at the front of your school.

Train fifth and sixth graders to be drop-off zone escorts—these older students guide kids out of cars safely, quickly and efficiently to keep parents moving at drop-off which helps decrease congestion and injuries.

**What's Your Walk to School Story?**

**We want to hear, so visit our web site  
and let us know!**

For more information visit the following website:

California Walk to School Headquarters: [www.caphysicalactivity.org](http://www.caphysicalactivity.org) or call at 1-888-393-0353

