



O V E R V I E W

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY POSITIVE STEPS FOR CALIFORNIA'S COMMUNITIES

In neighborhoods all around the world, October 8th is Walk to School Day. In the United States and over 25 other countries including Mexico, South Korea, India and Great Britain, adults and children will walk to school together to raise awareness about:



- The importance of teaching children **safe walking behaviors**, such as how to cross streets, and how to select safe routes to school.
- **How easy and enjoyable walking is!** Adults and children spend healthy, active time together doing the world's simplest exercise – walking.
- Taking specific steps to **create more walkable communities** such as advocating for more crosswalks, sidewalks, crossing guards and better driver behavior.

California Walk to School Headquarters assists parents, teachers and local leaders to organize one or more events locally. The number of participating California schools has blossomed from just

5 in 1998 to over 800 in 2001! Some Walk Day events receive support from national sponsors such as the National Safe Kids Coalition, 3M, Federal Express or L.L. Bean. Other supporters include:

- CA State Parent-Teacher Associations
- CA Department of Education – School Safety Office
- CA Highway Patrol
- The Partnership for a Walkable America
- Surface Transportation Policy Project
- CA Department of Health Services

Walk to School Day events are both educational and fun. Some events begin with students walking together in a 'walking school bus' group with parents, celebrities and dignitaries leading the way. Other events are designed so families can complete walkability checklists along their usual route, permitting parents to teach safety skills and identify ways that communities can improve the route's safety, access and aesthetics. Some schools host safety fairs, bike rodeos, poster contests, and parent meetings. Events and checklists can document community support and need for Caltrans' Safe Routes to School grants which are available for infrastructure improvements. Local organizers tend to be parents involved with school safety issues (via a PTA or Healthy Start program) or professionals involved with traffic or promoting walking for health safety (public health, public works, local officials).



**Walk to School Headquarters can help you, your school, and your community
make children safer and neighborhoods more walkable!**

Visit our website: www.cawalktoschool.com or contact us, toll-free: 1-888-393-0353.