Why should there be a District-wide policy on walking & biking to school?

⇒ Walking and biking offers students a daily activity that benefits their health, their ability to learn, and the environment.

⇒ All Boards of Education should consider walking and biking even if 100% of its students are bused. Some students may not use available busing, and schools cannot prohibit students from walking or bicycling.

⇒ To allow for public input, policies need to be established at the district level not by individual schools.

What are supportive walking and bicycling policies?

Policies should include:

⇒ a description of the benefits of walking and bicycling to school,

⇒ a list of safety rules and expectations of the student, parent and school, and

⇒ a disclaimer that walking and bicycling is an “assumption of responsibility by parents and students.”

Why do some schools ban bicycling?

⇒ Districts may feel they are decreasing the risk of liability when they prohibit bicycling to school, but a supportive policy reduces liability.

⇒ In New Jersey, schools have authority to regulate behavior to and from school involving “disorderly conduct.” However, bicycling does not pose a danger to others and does not need to be banned for liability concerns.

Find more resources at saferoutesnj.org:

• Why Should a School District Adopt Policies on Walking and Bicycling?
• Model Walking to School Policy
• Model Bicycling to School Policy
• Backing Off Bike Bans: The Legal Risks of Banning Bicycling to School

Ensure your district policies support walking and bicycling to school.