

Can students walk and bike to my school?

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.

Ensure your district policies support walking and bicycling to school.

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

Contact NJ Safe Routes to School for assistance with addressing safer walking & bicycling