



Model Resolution of Support

WHEREAS, there is a need to promote the health and safety of our children; and

WHEREAS, nearly one out of three children (31%) ages 10-17 are overweight or obese in New Jersey and New Jersey has the second highest rate of obesity (17.9%) for low-income children ages 2-5; and

WHEREAS, lack of physical activity has had a significant impact on children's health and well-being, resulting in higher rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other related health concerns compared to 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, driving children to school by private vehicle and idling in the school vicinity contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution near the school; and

WHEREAS, air pollution near schools can have adverse effects on student health, including decreased lung development, allergies and asthma, as well as on the local environment; and

WHEREAS, Congress has designated federal funding to develop the National Safe Routes to School Program to address these challenges; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking to school can have a positive mental and physical impact on the health of children and youth, and helps them arrive at school ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, providing safer routes to and from schools aims to decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students but for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School program uses education, encouragement, infrastructure and enforcement strategies to help make walking and bicycling to school safer and more attractive to children; and

WHEREAS, a successful Safe Routes to School program involves schools, school boards, citizens and local government to collaborate to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school safely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that (BOE or equivalent) / (local municipality) support the Safe Routes to School program and are proponents of developing and maintaining safe ways to walk and bicycle to school.