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# SafeRoutes

Florida Safe Routes to School



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## FLORIDA SCHOOLS TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY ON OCTOBER 7, 2009

*Tallahassee* - At least 125 Florida schools will be joining schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 7, 2009. Approximately 92,500 students will be walking or bicycling to school this Wednesday, October 7, along with parents, teachers and community leaders.

Each participating school plans its own events, and many exciting events are planned. Participating students will receive educational and promotional items, and tips on walking or bicycling safely to school.

In the U.S., International Walk to School Day is expected to include 3,000 to 5,000 schools from all 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. will join children and adults in 40 countries around the world.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community.

Many of these events are part of the national Safe Routes to School movement. Florida's Safe Routes to School program has received over \$29 million to be used for sidewalks and other infrastructure projects to support walking, as well as educational and encouragement programs. Florida currently has 237 Safe Routes to School programs in the planning or implementation phases.

“International Walk to School Day is a wonderful way to get children excited about walking, said Marianne Trussell, Chief Safety Officer. “Children enjoy these events so much that they often are followed by monthly, weekly, or even daily **Walk to School Days or Walking School Buses.**”

For more information on participating Florida schools, click on “Who’s Walking” at <http://www.walktoschool.org/>. For more information on Florida’s Safe Route to School Program, see [www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org) and [http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/project\\_list/](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/project_list/) (select Florida).

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