

International Walk to School Month IWALK Activity Ideas



Schools all over the world are celebrating International Walk to School Month (also known as IWALK or Walktober). Below are ideas on how you can celebrate and congratulate children for walking/wheeling to school.



Walking to/at School

- Walk parade or a one-day walking school bus: Get parents and student leaders together, choose meeting locations and times, create signs or choose a colour/theme, and walk to school together.
- Stickers, snacks, or other giveaways
- High-fives and/or photos with a mascot or a staff member in a costume
- Scavenger hunt
- Eye Spy: students pick a theme for each day of IWALK Week, (ex. safe things, unsafe things, things that pollute, etc.
- Group walk during break time

Assemblies

- Cheer/dance routine
- Video/slideshow with popular parts of the neighbourhood
- Guest speakers: trustees, cycling athlete alumni, or local councillors
- Dress up the principal or teacher activity

Competitions & Peer Motivation

- Song-writing/Cheer-writing contests
- Photo contest (i.e. best umbrella photo contest)
- Poster or postcard design contest
- Raffle
- Classroom banner competition
- Golden Shoe Trophy for the classroom with the most students walking/wheeling
- Walk across Canada map: Students record their steps and plot their progress on a map of Canada
- Kilometre club: Students compete to walk more kilometres over October
- Passports: Give a stamp each time students walk/wheel to school

Classroom Activities

- Classroom walking/wheeling graphs
- Walking route maps
- Tracking: have students put a sticker, check mark, or leaf for each time they walk/wheel to school
- Story-writing about students' favourite walk to school

For more resources, go to saferoutestoschool.ca

Raise awareness & share ideas

Encourage students and their families by letting them know that walking and wheeling to school is fun and good for them.

- Raise awareness about the benefits of active school travel. Walking/wheeling to school is healthy, environmentally friendly, and great for getting to know the neighbourhood and creating community connections. See our [website](#) for details.
- Ask students to share what they like best about their walk to school.
- Ask students and parents about recommended walking routes.

Walking/wheeling to school can also be done safely and comfortably. Give tips on:

- Dressing for any weather
- Biking or wheeling in any weather
- Road safety
- Requesting for infrastructure improvements

Students who live too far from school to walk or wheel can still get active by:

- Getting dropped off a block or two away from school and walking the rest of the way.
- Participating in group walks and other activities at school during break time.

Share this information using posters, announcements, school newsletters, bulletin boards, social media, or any popular communications method at your school.

Prize Ideas

Prizes can be simple and affordable. Prizes are most effective when they help students continue to walk/wheel to school. Here are some ideas:

- Extra recess time
- Teachers do a slow bike race
- Principal dresses up in a costume
- Staff does a silly or popular dance
- Certificates
- Hall of fame
- Gift certificate or coupon to neighbourhood restaurants, cafés, or stores
- Mountain biking field trip
- Snow-shoeing field trip