

RESOLUTION BY THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL INITIATIVES AND ALIGNED PARTNERSHIPS

WHEREAS, the health and safety of our children is of highest concern to the citizens of Wake County and the Wake County Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to Schools initiatives promote walking and biking to school in areas adjacent to schools where school bus transportation is not generally available; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School initiatives foster community engagement as it relies on the formation of multidisciplinary teams in each community to increase awareness of and support for school related transportation and student success; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School programs can strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Wake County Public School System, local jurisdictions, community organizations, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) with the goal of efficiently prioritizing resources to improve the built environment adjacent schools to encourage walking and biking to school;

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School projects, especially in low-income communities, provide important health, safety, and environmental benefits for children, including reducing risk of obesity/chronic disease and pedestrian/bicycle injuries as well as improving air quality;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that physical activity has a positive effect on student achievement;

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School projects make it safer and more convenient for all residents to walk and bike to destinations, further promoting public health and the positive interaction between schools and adjacent neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle (not carpooling) ~~can~~ contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, being able to walk or bicycle to school along safe routes offers an opportunity to build healthful physical activity into daily routine and arrive at school ready to learn; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Education hereby supports Safe Routes to School initiatives and commends the many partners currently engaged in promoting walking and biking to school, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wake County Board of Education will participate with CAMPO and member jurisdictions in the establishment and prioritization of projects benefiting walking and biking to school, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wake County Board of Education encourages school administrators to participate in Safe Routes to Schools initiatives with the purpose of improving student achievement.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

CHAIR
Wake County Board of Education

ATTEST
