



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Children's lives are safer when communities prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety; and
- WHEREAS: A lack of physical activity plays a leading role in health problems among children, and being able to walk or bike to school offers an opportunity to build physical activity into daily routines; and
- WHEREAS: Increasing the number of children safely walking and biking to school can reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and reduce asthma attacks; and
- WHEREAS: Safe Routes to School interventions have been shown to reduce the rate of pedestrian injury by 44 percent; and
- WHEREAS: Busing shortages have schools reimagining their transportation plans, and not every parent or caregiver can afford to drive their student to school; and
- WHEREAS: Transportation is the second-highest household expense in the United States, and Safe Routes to School programs may help encourage more parents and children to consider walking or biking to school instead of using a bus or a car; and
- WHEREAS: Active kids learn better – closing learning gaps exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic is a priority for schools, and Safe Routes to School programs helps students better focus in the classroom; and
- WHEREAS: Studies have shown that after 20 minutes of physical activity, students tested better in reading, spelling, and math and were more likely to read above their grade level; and
- WHEREAS: More than 500 schools across Minnesota have been awarded funding through MnDOT planning, infrastructure, or non-infrastructure grants; and
- WHEREAS: Walk and Bike to School Days are special events to help make walking and biking more visible, fun, and rewarding for children; encourage parents and students to make walking and biking to school a habit, and allow decision-makers to witness the value of walkable and bikeable communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 2, 2022 as:

WINTER WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 25th day of January.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Walz".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Simon".

SECRETARY OF STATE