

Parent Survey Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

School Name: Southwest Middle School

Set ID: 12186

School Group: Douglas County

Month and Year Collected: January 2015

School Enrollment: 658

Date Report Generated: 02/02/2015

% Range of Students Involved in SRTS: Not Applicable

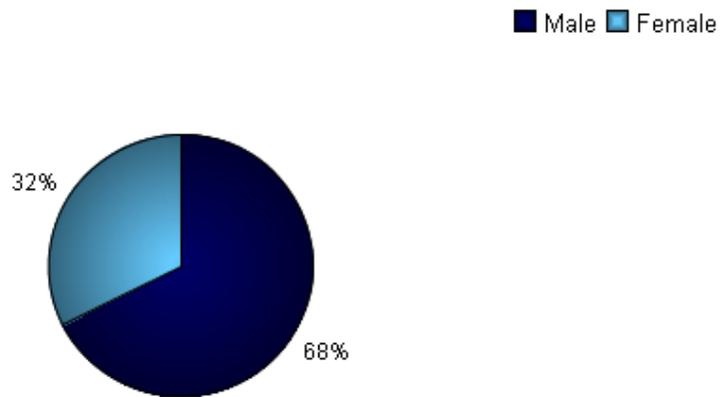
Tags:

Number of Questionnaires Distributed: 0

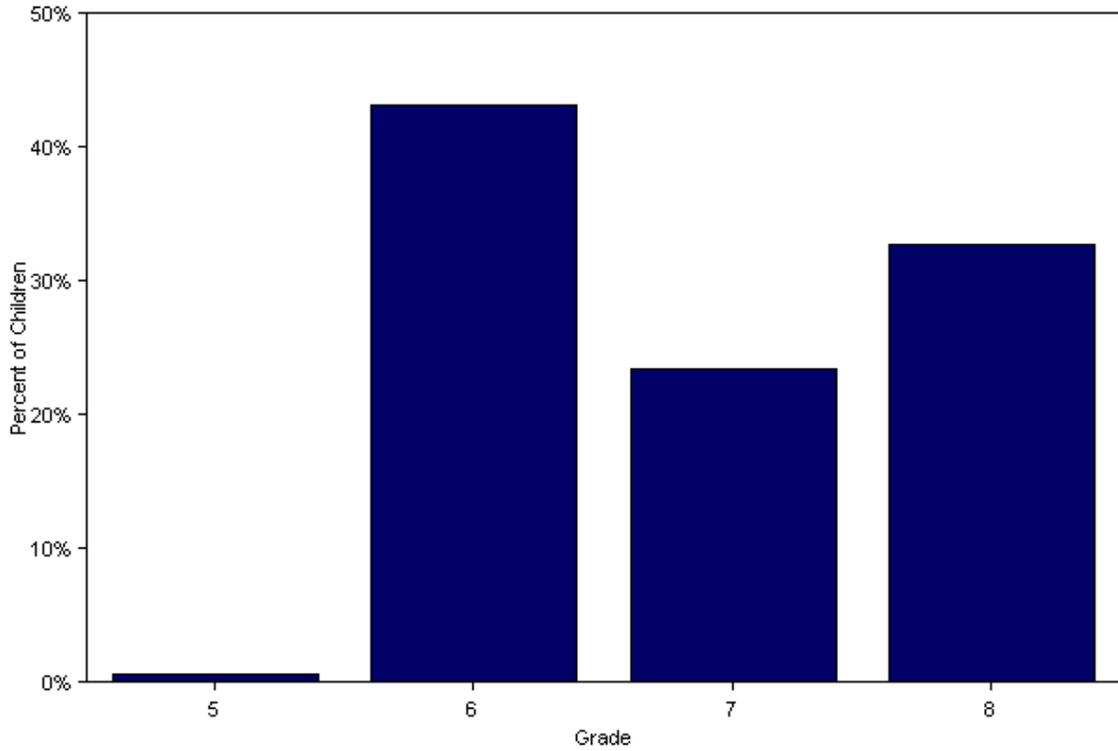
Number of Questionnaires Analyzed for Report: 163

This report contains information from parents about their children's trip to and from school. The report also reflects parents' perceptions regarding whether walking and bicycling to school is appropriate for their child. The data used in this report were collected using the Survey about Walking and Biking to School for Parents form from the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

Sex of children for parents that provided information



Grade levels of children represented in survey



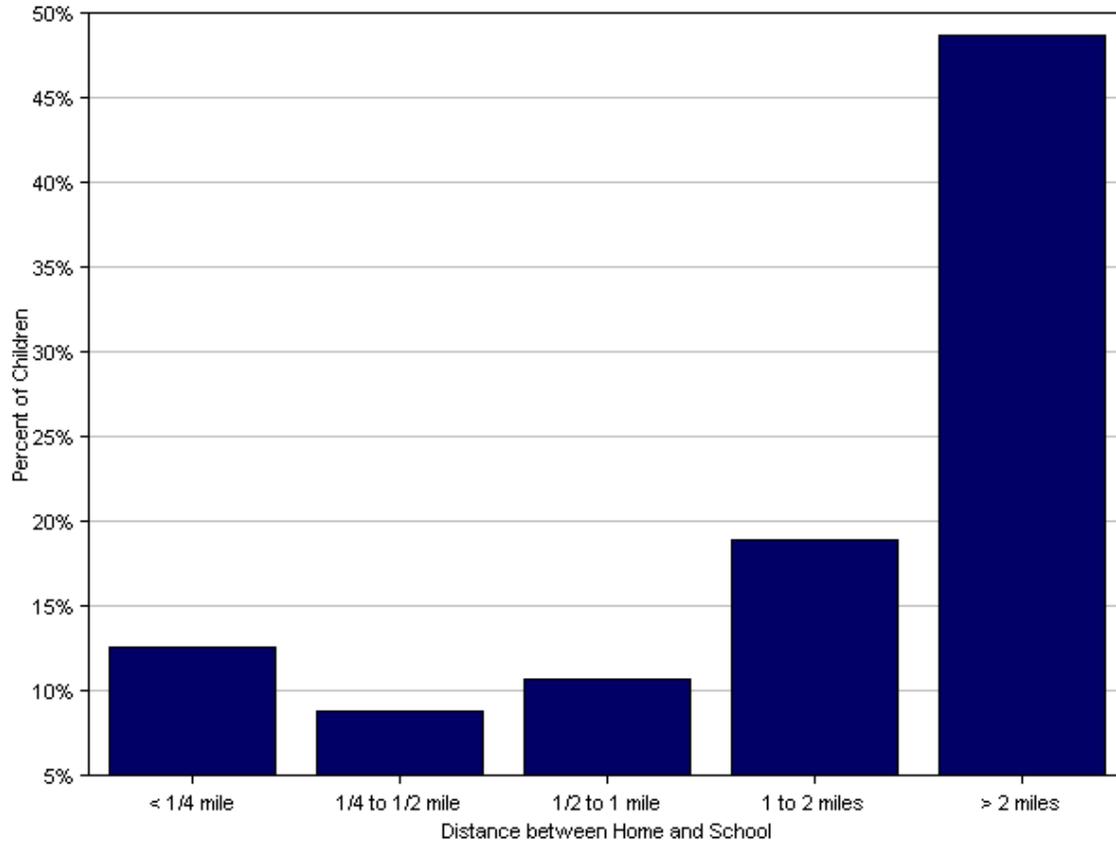
Grade levels of children represented in survey

Grade in School	Responses per grade	
	Number	Percent
5	1	1%
6	70	43%
7	38	23%
8	53	33%

No response: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school



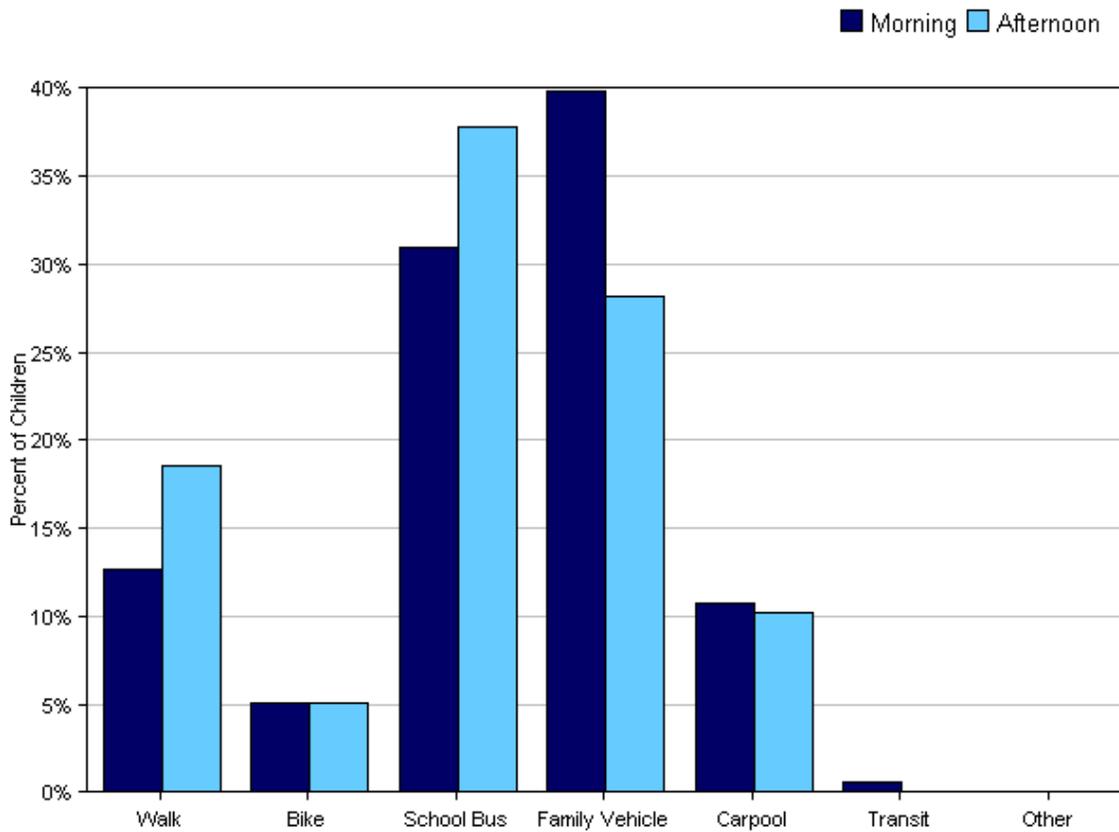
Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

Distance between home and school	Number of children	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	20	13%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	14	9%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	11%
1 mile up to 2 miles	30	19%
More than 2 miles	77	49%

Don't know or No response: 5

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Typical mode of arrival at and departure from school



Typical mode of arrival at and departure from school

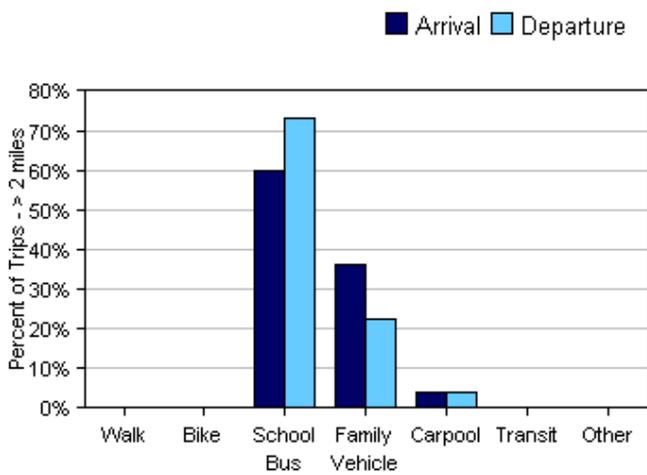
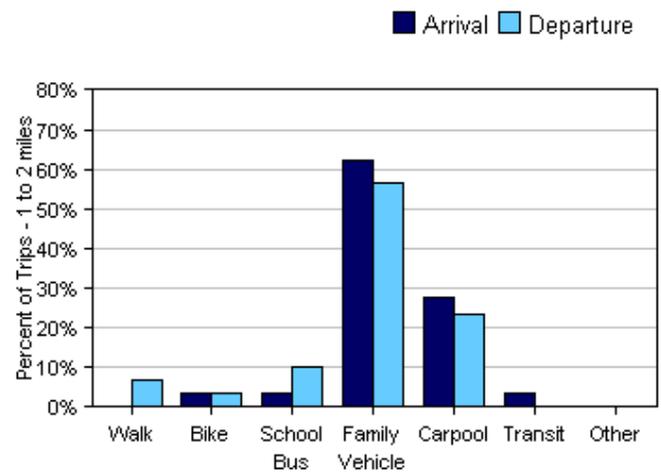
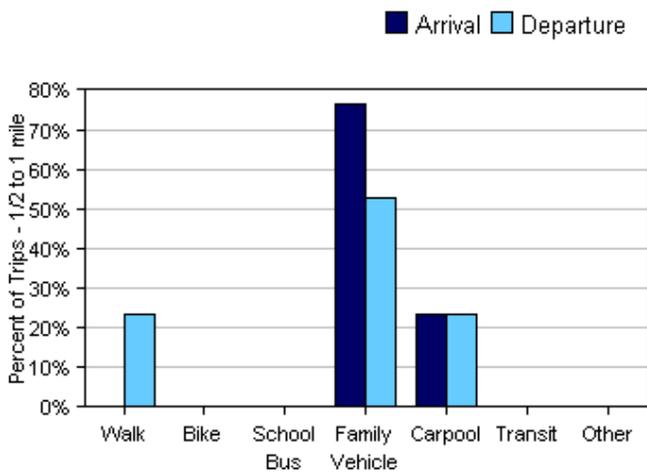
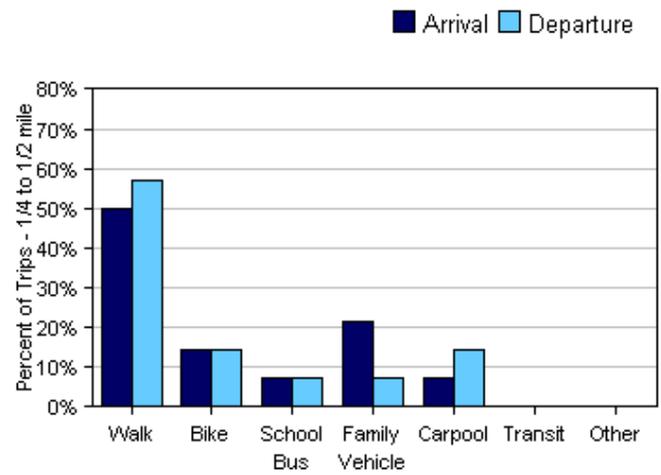
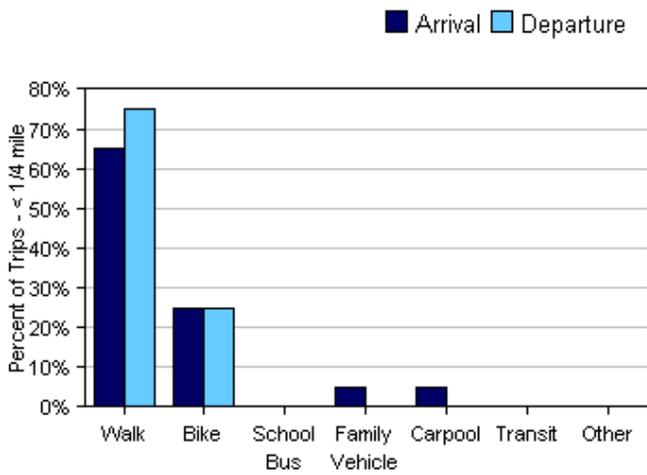
Time of Trip	Number of Trips	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Morning	158	13%	5%	31%	40%	11%	0.6%	0%
Afternoon	156	19%	5%	38%	28%	10%	0%	0%

No Response Morning: 5

No Response Afternoon: 7

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Typical mode of school arrival and departure by distance child lives from school



Typical mode of school arrival and departure by distance child lives from school

School Arrival

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	20	65%	25%	0%	5%	5%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	14	50%	14%	7%	21%	7%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	0%	0%	0%	76%	24%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	29	0%	3%	3%	62%	28%	3%	0%
More than 2 miles	77	0%	0%	60%	36%	4%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 6

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

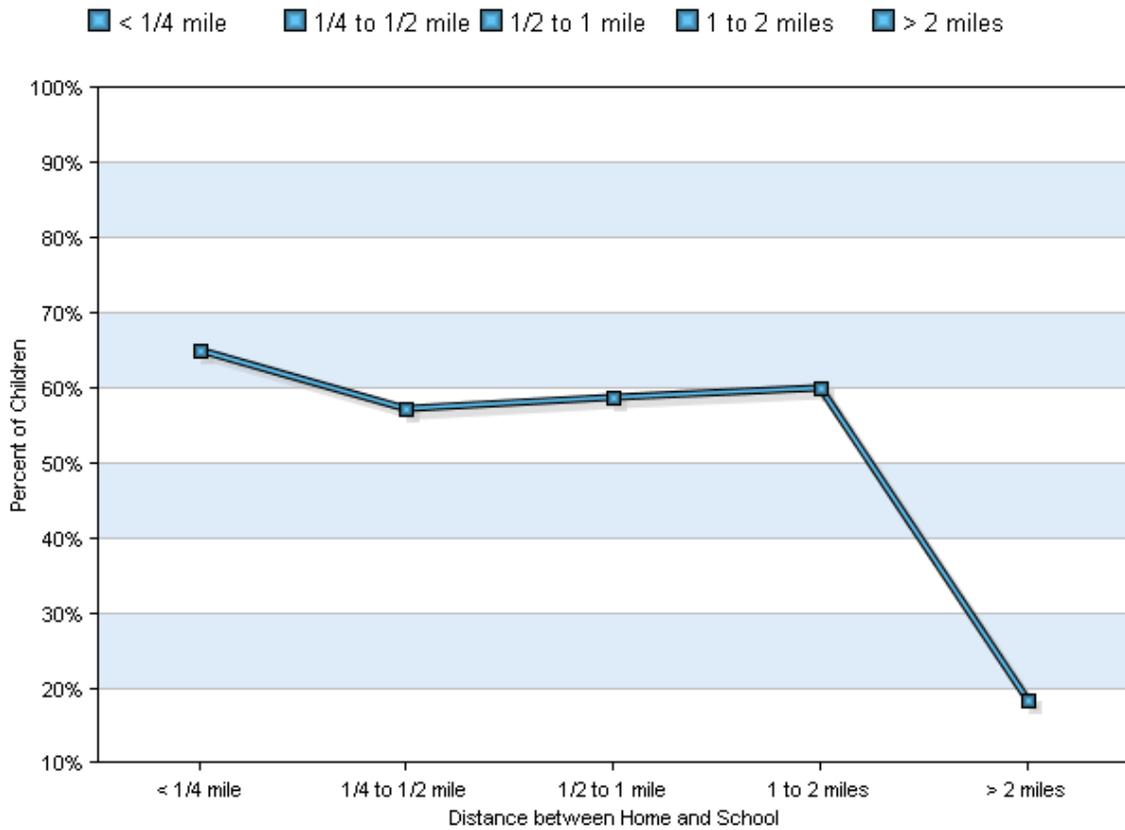
School Departure

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	20	75%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	14	57%	14%	7%	7%	14%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	17	24%	0%	0%	53%	24%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	30	7%	3%	10%	57%	23%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	75	0%	0%	73%	23%	4%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 7

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

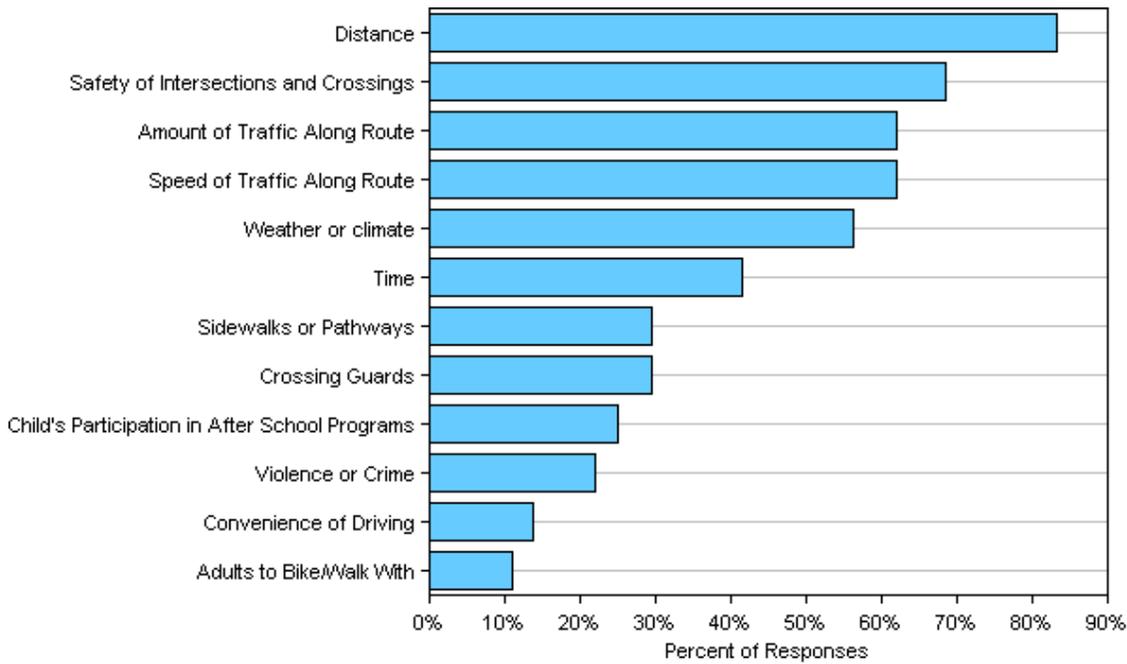


Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

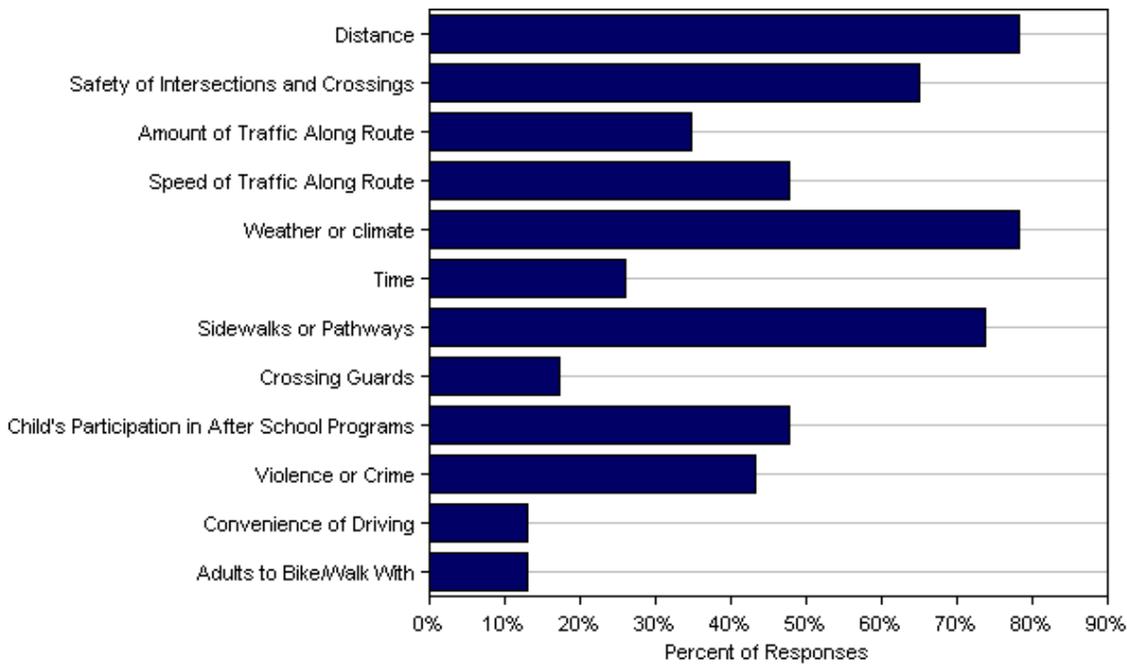
Asked Permission?	Number of Children	Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile up to 1 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	More than 2 miles
Yes	63	65%	57%	59%	60%	18%
No	94	35%	43%	41%	40%	82%

Don't know or No response: 6
 Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Issues reported to affect the decision to not allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who do not walk or bike to/from school



Issues reported to affect the decision to allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by parents of children who already walk or bike to/from school



Issues reported to affect the decision to allow a child to walk or bike to/from school by
parents of children who already walk or bike to/from school

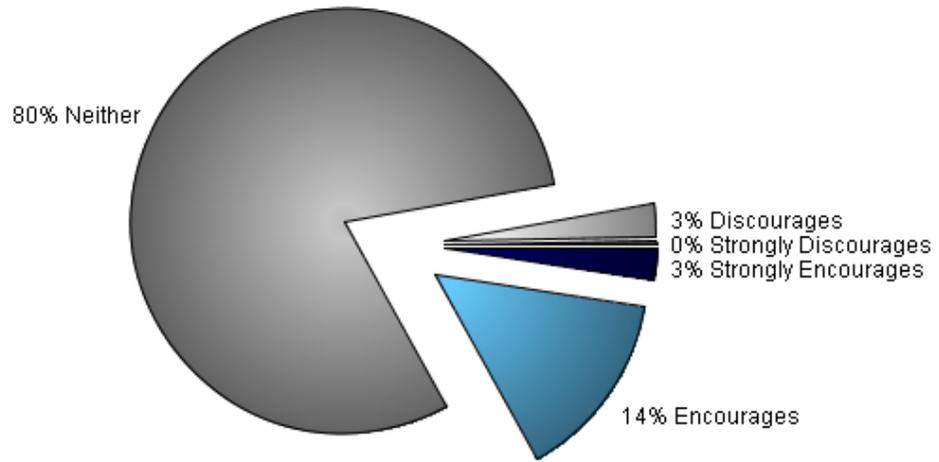
Issue	Child does not walk/bike to school	Child walks/bikes to school
Distance	83%	78%
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	69%	65%
Amount of Traffic Along Route	62%	35%
Speed of Traffic Along Route	62%	48%
Weather or climate	56%	78%
Time	42%	26%
Sidewalks or Pathways	30%	74%
Crossing Guards	30%	17%
Child's Participation in After School Programs	25%	48%
Violence or Crime	22%	43%
Convenience of Driving	14%	13%
Adults to Bike/Walk With	11%	13%
Number of Respondents per Category	108	23

No response: 32

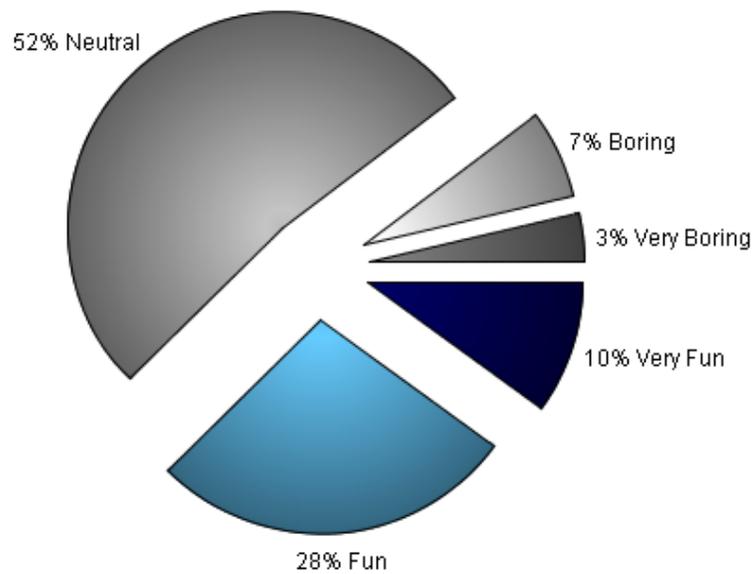
Note:

- Factors are listed from most to least influential for the 'Child does not walk/bike to school' group.
- Each column may sum to > 100% because respondent could select more than issue
- The calculation used to determine the percentage for each issue is based on the 'Number of Respondents per Category' within the respective columns (Child does not walk/bike to school and Child walks/bikes to school.) If comparing percentages between the two columns, please pay particular attention to each column's number of respondents because the two numbers can differ dramatically.

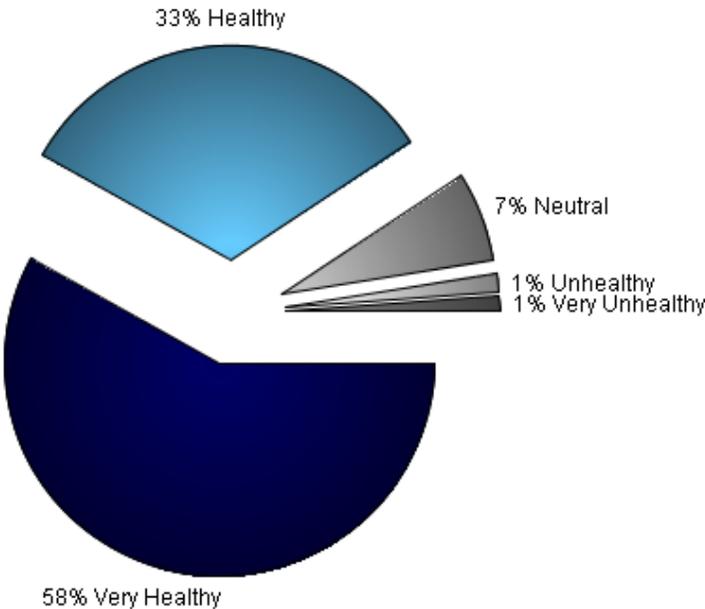
Parents' opinions about how much their child's school encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school



Parents' opinions about how much fun walking and biking to/from school is for their child



Parents' opinions about how healthy walking and biking to/from school is for their child



Comments Section

SurveyID	Comment
1288959	My child walks to and from school everyday because he is not allowed to ride the bus due to our close proximity to the school. In my opinion, my child should be offered the option to ride the bus to school because it's honestly too cold for him to walk in the winter and too hot in the early Fall. Furthermore, he's a teenager, and half of the time he doesn't show up for school when he walks because it's easy for him to skip school that way. I can't always drive him to school in the mornings, but if he were able to ride the bus then he would certainly go to school, be on time, and arrive there safely and warm. Kansas has such strong truancy rules, but the weather is not considered when the decision for kids to walk to school based on their location is decided. If my child has to leave the house at 7:15 am to get to school by 7:45-8:00, then he is typically walking for 30 minutes in 15 degree weather in the winter. That's just torture. I'm absolutely in favor of kids walking if they choose to, but my child is forced to walk, and that isn't fair.
1286782	Definitely need more crossing gaurds along the school routes not only for traffic control, but to look out for the children when the parents are not able to.
1286786	I only drive to school in the winter my daughter will now be riding her bike as the weather warms up. My son in 1st grade often rides bikes with me.
1286806	We live in an area that is just on the cutoff to be able to be bused to school and as working parents that can be very challenging.
1289089	our younger child walks/rides bike often, but his school is much closer
1292096	I would love for my child to be able to walk, but I'm not willing to allow her to cross intersections of 23rd and Clinton Pkwy without an adult.
1292110	She is too far to walk but too close to ride the bus. The bus is needed for after school, however she was denied the ability to ride the bus. The walk is not safe due to weather, stranger risk, and distance (1.65 miles one way). It is a hardship on our family to arrange pick up and drop off. The after school programs are very useful though.
1292114	I will only allow my child to walk home with a friend or sibling. I prefer not to let my children walk home alone. I didn't let my child walk at all until I got them a cell phone. I think they are safer walking with a cell phone.
1286797	I allowed my 7th grader to bike to his elementary school and allow my 5th graders do it now but we live only 3/4 mile from the elementary school and do not have to cross any major streets. Now, middle school is too far and the path is along two major streets.
1286798	He walked a lot last year to his elementary school. Distance is the only factor keeping him from walking this year.
1286804	We cannot allow our son to walk or ride 2.3 miles to school across two major 4 lane heavily used roads. The bus picks up .3 miles north of us, but our child cannot ride the bus because we live less than 2.5 miles from the school. The line up of cars wastes natural resources and pollutes the environment. Good examples for our children I suppose.
1286809	I'm about 1 mile from Langston Hughes, and my kids biked from 2nd to 5th grade. We're 2+ miles from SMS, so he takes the bus, which means he has to leave the house at 7:15am, which is earlier than I'd like.
1286814	The Inverness/Clinton Parkway (23rd) intersection has bothered me for 10 year now. There are many kids living across 23rd who could easily walk but don't because of the intersection. I have been right there and seen cars fly through the red light at that intersection and crash into other cars. There is NO WAY I would let either of my children have walked. I've asked about a crossing guard and been told it is too big a street or too busy or whatever. I do not believe this excuse as there are crossing guards on Iowa near Hillcrest Elementary and also at 23rd and I think it is Ousdahl. These are equally busy and big (one is even the same street - 23rd)! If the excuse is that those are there for elementary schools that does not fly either as Sunflower Elementary is right by Southwest Middle plus Raintree Montessoure is on the other side of 23rd as well. 3 schools and their students could be served with a crossing guard at this intersection. And, believe it or not, there is a crossing guard on the tiny street bordering Sunflower at the end of Inverness! Now which location needs a crossing guard more?! Some of us have addressed this intersection issue for 10+ years to no avail. I hope someone will listen now but I doubt it. My child will be at LHS next year but for those families still needing to cross that intersection in the future, I hope something will be done.
1286821	I would love my child to either ride a bus or be able to bike or walk to school. Because of the distance (we are more than 2 miles away, but less than 2.5, the requirement for a bus) and because of his having to cross Bob Billings by himself, I do not feel it would be safe for him to do so.

1288906	My son rides his bike to school when he can (weather permitting, and when he doesn't have to carry his large instrument with him). He loves it, and it gives him exercise and independence. There are no safe crossings of Bob Billings between Inverness & Wakarusa, and when he bikes south on Inverness, drivers are not always considerate. I wish there were a BIKE LANE and BIKE CROSSINGS!!! My son has actually throughout of petitioning the county to expand bike paths. Lawrence is not a very bikeable place. He also bikes downtown, and there is no good way to do that. He bikes along the sidewalk on 6th and that is dangerous in itself because of in/out traffic from parking lots. A friend's child was struck by a car when biking in town. We should do all we can to encourage biking by everyone in our community.
1288921	Our child walked/biked to elementary school last year. Now that he is in middle school, the distance is farther. He is physically capable of doing that, but there is no safe place to cross Bob Billings and crossing Clinton Parkway would not be ideal. There would need to be dedicated bike paths. Also, the uncertainty of weather (storms in pm during fall/spring) make it less ideal.
1288923	We walked and biked on most days in fall and spring to and from the elementary school, and only drove in bad weather. The kids did it by themselves once they were in 3rd grade and older. There is so much traffic and so many busy intersections between our house and the middle school, I don't feel there is currently a safe route, but we bike together as a family, so the distance is not much of an issue. Thank you for the survey, I'd love to see safe routes for everyone in Lawrence.
1288924	I think walking or biking to/from school can be lots of fun if many of the criteria we rated are met. My son lives 2.7 miles away and this is too far to walk regardless of weather, safety, etc. He would spend an hour walking one way to school. So for some students this just isn't an option - even if it would be extremely healthy.
1288928	My child rides in a carpool before school because of school activities. The bus ride after school is wonderful. The distance to our home is just a bit too far to walk or bike regularly. Under 1 mile and over 7th grade in Southwest neighborhood's seems safe to me and my child would bike or walk regularly if we lived closer.
1288932	Pedestrians and people on bikes are not safe here, I feel. I come from Europe where drivers pay attention to them, traffic is more logically and safely coordinated (no right turns on red light). There are not enough people on the sidewalks here, either. Everybody stands out. Walking to the store to get groceries, we get looks like escaped convicts. And to add one more thing: there is hardly any public space here. Private property everywhere.
1288942	We know the distance to the MS from our home is too far to quickly and safely get to school. We do appreciate that he is able to ride the school bus.
1289059	Prior to 2nd grade, my 8th grader walked with a group of other young children and a neighborhood adult. In 2nd grade, they walked alone but had a 5th grade guide (older brother). By 4th grade the neighborhood kids all walked together without older siblings or adults.
1292162	He was allowed to bike to school when he was an elementary student. We live about half a mile from the school. (Langston) Southwest is too far to bike and I wouldn't want him on Wakarusa and Clinton Parkway on a bike. I think it is the parent's responsibility to encourage walking/biking to/from school. Teachers always encourage students to be healthy and active. How they get to and from is a safety/family issue.
1292401	We live across the street from the school, so our children have always walked to school.
1296301	Clinton Parkway is a gauntlet...otherwise, we would be more amenable to kids biking/walking to school.
1286769	My child often carries her musical instrument to/from school which makes biking not possible. And she lives too far from the school to make walking practical.
1286774	My child would like to do this, and I'm OK with it, but I think we live too far and there are too many big streets to cross. So the likelihood of this actually happening is slim, even with more stop signs etc.
1286789	The military uses a good tool to determine an appropriate age for supervision and how old kids should be to walk/bike to and from school. I think it's always good to have a guideline.
1286822	I walked to school until I graduated LHS. I had a car but was not allowed to drive to and from school. We walked and talked together and it felt safe! My youngest child walks home from school even when we are home to get her. This gives kids time to unwind and to socialize with their peers. It also teaches them time management, directions and helps them understand distance. I'm a big proponent !!!
1288915	Child carries a 10 lb (estimated) backpack on her back and sometimes a cello. Walking 2+ miles is not an option. Also, kids are required to put all work and their pencil bag in a 3 inch binder that is bulky and is heavy by mid-year, plus they carry books for homework, lunch bags, gym shoes/clothes, jackets, etc.
1288973	We don't live with in walking or biking distance otherwise we would.
1296020	Lawrence is a college town so it's not really violence or crime as much as inattentive drivers that worry me

1286779	I have kids in 1st-6th grade. The little kids tire faster and because SW starts earlier than Sunflower I have to leave for work before they can leave to walk to school. I also have one kid that is at la petite that doesn't ever walk.
1286781	At nearly 2 miles from home to school, the district should provide bus service.
1286791	Southwest Middle School is in a very safe neighborhood, which is part of the reason we purchased our house here. My only concern is the traffic at the roundabouts on Inverness. Cars often go flying through these roundabouts without looking out for students. All of my kids have had "near miss" incidents at the walkway at the roundabout just by SWMS. Something should be done to force drivers to slow down around this roundabout.
1286811	Need lighting from Tennis Courts to Scottsdale for kids that stay after at Southwest Middle School. New sidewalk is great but I would never allow my child to walk that area in complete darkness. Thanks.
1286812	The age in which I would let a child walk alone would depend on the distance, route, traffic, perceived safety. I live just across the street so I would let a much younger child walk but when we lived nearly 2 miles from school which included walking down and crossing a major Street, I wouldn't let my 6th grader walk.
1286819	My main concern is his lack of experience with traffic and intersections. He may not exercise good judgments about traffic speed and direction of cars coming into his path and the stakes are high for any misjudgments.
1288930	This survey just doesn't apply to most of the middle school kids. That can't be improved.
1288945	It would be nice if school was not cancelled due to "cold". I would also recommend that the early dismissals on Wednesdays be cancelled. Children need to go to school, not waste an afternoon every week or learn to be weak.
1291990	I don't have many choices. We live 1.5 miles from school and he can't ride the school bus, but it is really hard for him to catch the city bus, it comes too soon. I would prefer he take the city bus when it is cold. The city bus route afternoon time needs to be adjusted accordingly. Also, there needs to be a city bus in the afternoon closer to the 1:30 early release even when KU is not in session. My child stood outside waiting in single digits for half an hour a few weeks ago until he finally walked back to school and found out that there was not a bus at that time before KU is in session. A teacher had to drive him home.
1292753	Yeah!
1296013	We live 1.9 miles away and don't qualify for the bus. We would not want our kids crossing Bob Billings or Clinton Parkway
1286802	The congestion at the school to drop off and pick up a child is almost as bad as traffic the child must tackle if they walk or ride a bike. Absolutely ridiculous. Busing more children would stop this.
1288949	Due to crossing Clinton Pkwy, I will not allow my children to walk or bike to or from school. They are too far from their assigned high school for this to be a factor.
1288966	Live 2.3 miles away from school and must cross Clinton Parkway during rush hour traffic. I trust my son, I don't trust drivers playing with cell phones.
1286778	My kids walked to Quail Run Elementary School but it was only one mile and in a completely residential area. They should not walk more than two and a half miles and cross 15th Street without a light.
1288954	Walking and biking worked for elementary school and will again for high school. SWMS is too far from our home to be practical or advisable and my work schedule prevents me from driving and picking up each day.
1288958	We live almost ten miles from my sons school. I do not think it is safe at all.
1288931	Additional information may be needed for this survey -- like an 'other' in the issues section. #9/#10 I do not let my daughter walk alone, but do not require an adult. She must have a friend to walk with. Also #10/#14 -- the amount of books in her backpack is a concern. There are times her backpack weighs over 20 pounds, she weighs about 90 lbs. I don't think walking 2.1 miles is healthy with a heavy backpack not meant to offer support. There have been times when I drive carpool and have the kids throw their backpacks in the car and they walk home.
1286799	Question 12-14 is not applicable to my child as we live too far from his middle school for him to either bike or walk.
1289016	with school bus service, the need for biking (walking would be too far) is low. Biking would require our son to get to a safe bike path, but that is out of the way (Kasold, which would connect with Bob Billings path). For us, the time required doesn't make sense. We live about a 1 mile or so from Quail Run, and our 3rd grader regularly walks, enjoys it, and we see it as a MAJOR health benefit for him.
1296009	We were quite upset when we moved to Lawrence and found out there was no transportation to and from middle school for our children. The walking route is too long and unsafe, both parents work, and students are not allowed to stay in the building. It is not a safe situation and very different from elementary and high school.