Northeast Iowa

Safe Routes to School

2012-2013 Annual Report

A look into how students travel to and from school in Allamakee, Clayton, Chickasaw, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek counties in Northeast Iowa.

This report was compiled by the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission Safe Routes to School Liaison in September of 2013.

The information included in this report has been made possible for public distribution through the efforts of Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative, Iowans Walking Assessment Logistics Kit and Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development.

The cover photo is of a West Union Walking School Bus on its way to West Union Elementary School (North Fayette Community School District) in May of 2013.

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Safe Routes to School Background

Students from Postville Community School District on a Walking School Bus.

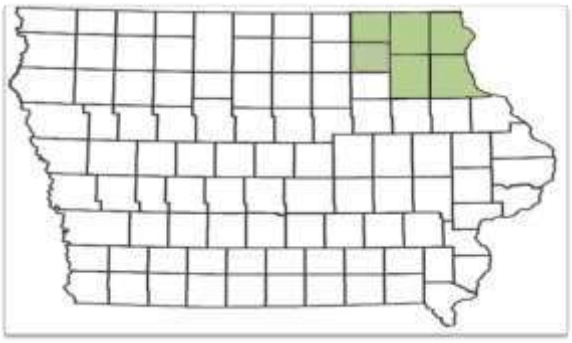
Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a movement which started in Denmark in the 1970s to combat the number of students being fatally injured while walking and bicycling to school (National Center for Safe Routes to School, 2012). Now an international movement to enable and encourage students to safely walk and bicycle to and from school, SRTS has gained momentum and support in the United States since the late 1990s.

SRTS programs are the result of parents, schools, communities and all levels of government joining forces in an effort to improve the health and safety of our children, our future leaders. The SRTS program in Northeast Iowa involves collaboration among the communities and schools in six counties (Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek) and the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative (FFI).

FFI is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Food and Community Partner working to improve the health of Northeast Iowa through promotion of healthy, locally grown food and active living and play. SRTS is a main focus of FFI because safer routes to school and areas for active play encourage people to be physically active. More information about FFI can be found at www.iowafoodandfitness.org. Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission, the council of governments for the region and a core partner of FFI, houses the northeast Iowa SRTS program.

Since 2008, SRTS Travel Tallies have been utilized to track SRTS progress in northeast Iowa. The SRTS Travel Tallies determine the transportation mode students use to get to and from school: walk, bicycle, skate/scoot, school bus, family vehicle, carpool or other. On three consecutive days during the spring, teachers ask their students how they traveled to school that morning and how they plan to travel home from school at the end of the day.

Figure 1. Map Highlighting the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative Region



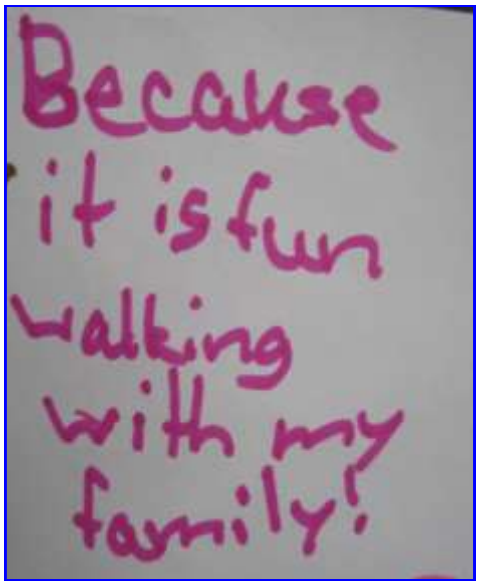
The information covered in this report highlights SRTS history in Northeast Iowa and the results of the SRTS Travel Tallies conducted during the 2012-2013 school year in participating schools.

National Center for Safe Routes to School. (2012). History of SRTS. Retrieved from http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/about-us/mission-and-history

2012-2013 Summary

The 2012-2013 school year was a positive year for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) in Northeast Iowa. Northeast Iowa schools are becoming more involved with SRTS than ever before:

- More community school districts participated in the SRTS Travel Tally than ever before (17).
- Walking School Bus routes doubled from the 2011-2012 school year (from 7 to 17).
- While only making up 5% of school buildings in Iowa, Northeast Iowa schools represented 40% of the schools in Iowa which participated in the 2012 International Walk to School Day event.



A Northeast Iowa student on why he or she likes to walk.

Schools, parents and community members throughout the region are beginning to see why SRTS is so important and why it should matter:

- Active transportation to and from school is an easy way to get children active, which is essential for healthy growth and development.
- Studies show physical activity helps improve academic ability.
- Teacher report better classroom behavior when students are active before school.

Postville Community School District students celebrate International Walk to School Day.

For this report and future reports, the percent of students walking and bicycling to and from school has been expanded to now include skating and scooting. Skating and scooting made up over 2% of trips students took to and from school, highlighting the importance of capturing all the forms of active transportation students are using to get to and from school.

As reported by the SRTS Travel Tally, the percentage of students using active forms of transportation to and from school (walking, bicycling, skating and scooting) is lower than in years past (16% compared to 22% for 2011-2012). It is important to note that the weather during the time frame the 2012-2013 SRTS Travel Tally was conducted was very poor for springtime in Northeast Iowa. Additionally, many of the region's new Walking School Buses had not yet started.

The decrease in the percentage of students using active transportation highlights the need for continued support to keep progress moving forward and to truly create a culture shift around the way students are traveling to and from school.

A Look into Northeast Iowa's Future

Opportunities for SRTS work in Northeast Iowa continue to grow. While the three-day SRTS Travel Tally percentage for actively traveling to and from school were down from previous years, the SRTS movement continues to expand throughout the region. It is a very exciting time in Northeast Iowa. More schools, families and communities are becoming involved with SRTS than ever before. Additionally, more infrastructure projects are taking into account pedestrian and bicycle safety measures.

St. Joseph Community School students celebrate International Walk to School Day.

As the Northeast Iowa SRTS programs looks to the future, it is important to note a few key items. First, the Northeast Iowa SRTS Program plans to reach more school buildings in the upcoming school year, both public and private. To assist with this reach, Upper Explorerland will also be creating SRTS Plans for schools in the five counties it serves (Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek) over the next two year. These plans will help schools identify future SRTS projects and support.

North Winneshiek Community School District students participate in a Bike Rodeo.

Second, much energy will be put towards increasing Walking School Bus number even more. Many communities in the region have great walking infrastructure in neighborhoods within walking distance to school, and it is time to help communities better utilize these resources.

Lastly, the search for continued funding to support the work of the Regional SRT Liaison is ongoing. Federal SRTS funding is no longer available. In order to keep this vital position alive, other options for financial sustainability need to be researched.

Specific goals for the next school year for each school highlighted in the report are listed out in the *2012-2013 Individual School Summary* section. It will be exciting to see the SRTS progress made during the 2013-2014 school year. Keep up the great work, Northeast Iowa!

The Safe Routes to School Journey in Northeast Iowa

2008-2009

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) movement in Northeast Iowa took off in 2008 when the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative (FFI) and Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development received funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation to complete a regional SRTS plan, termed the *Northeast Iowa Regional Safe Routes to School: Initiative for Healthier Students,* during the 2008-2009 school year for five counties: Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard and Winneshiek.

A student gets his helmet properly fitted at Oelwein Community School District's Bike Rodeo event.

RC&D was successful in producing Iowa's first regional SRTS plan. The plan can be located on the RC&D website at wwww.northeastiowarcd.org.

2009-2010

Allamakee Community School District's first Walking School Bus takes off in Waukon.

During the 2009-2010 school year, FFI piloted SRTS programs in six school districts and private schools:

- Allamakee Community School District (CSD)
- Central CSD
- De Sales School
- New Hampton CSD
- South Winneshiek CSD
- Valley CSD

A full bike rack at Oelwein Community School District.

2010-2011

FFI worked with 14 schools in the region to launch School Wellness Teams, which work to increase the health and safety of the school environment. The School Wellness Teams push for healthy eating and increased activity levels among students, leading to support of SRTS programming.

Of the 12 communities chosen to participate in the Iowa Department of Public Health Iowans Walking Assessment Logistics Kit (I-WALK) Program in 2010-2011, two were selected from Northeast Iowa: Riceville and West Union. I-WALK helps schools and communities build SRTS coalitions. Detailed reports of the I-WALK results can be found on the I-WALK website at www.i-walk.org.

2011-2012

School Wellness Teams continued to support SRTS efforts in Northeast Iowa during the 2011-2012 school year. Furthering these efforts, Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission was successful in creating a Regional SRTS Liaison position to incorporate SRTS education, encouragement and evaluation in the region through an Iowa Department of Transportation grant. The Regional SRTS Liaison collaborates with FFI to spread the SRTS message within schools and communities throughout Northeast Iowa.

Decorah Community School District students participate in a Walking School Bus.

To help communities map their walking and bicycling infrastructure, maps were created with help from Luther College students for two communities: Cresco and New Hampton. Infrastructure maps have also been completed in the past for Calmar, Elkader and Waukon.

The SRTS message was also incorporated into community planning efforts by Upper Explorerland for a handful of Northeast Iowa communities through Iowa Smart Planning, comprehensive planning guidelines. During the 2011-2012 school year, the Regional SRTS Liaison attended community forums to discuss inclusion of SRTS projects into comprehensive planning efforts for the following communities: Calmar, Fayette, Lime Springs, McGregor, Oelwein and West Union.

2012-2013

With support from School Wellness Teams, FFI and the Regional SRTS Liaison, SRTS work progressed during the 2012-2013 school year throughout the region. The Regional SRTS Liaison focused a lot on community outreach and relationship building. Several operating SRTS Coalitions have been formed as a result of these efforts. Another main focus was to increase Walking School Buses throughout the region, which was accomplished.

Tour de Allamakee County, a bike ride put on by the Postville Food and Fitness 4-H Youth Team.

Large projects for the school year included:

- Postville and Oelwein chosen at I-WALK communities
- A Walking School Bus project in West Union funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health
- Walkability assessment grants to survey walking paths in Elkader, Fayette, Hawkeye, New Hampton and Waukon
- Discussion of SRTS projects for inclusion in comprehensive planning efforts for Guttenberg

In review of this report, as with all self-reported data, results have the potential to be impacted by certain biases, most notably recall bias and social desirability bias. Additionally, Figures 3, 4 and 5 exclude data from certain schools based on an isolated school location and very young age of students. Also note, due to rounding by the National Center for Safe Routes to School Program Tracking System, percentages may not total 100%. Moreover, due to the fact that responses were collected during one, consecutive three-day period during the school year, resulting figures may not be a representative sample of travel throughout the entire school year.

2012-2013 Regional Travel Tally Results

Historical Comparisons

Figure 2 is a historical representation of the school districts which have participated in the Northeast Iowa SRTS Travel Tally since 2008.

Figure 2. School Districts Participating in the Northeast Iowa Safe Routes to School Travel Tally 2008-2013						
Community School District (CSD)	County	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Public Schools						
Allamakee CSD*	**Allamakee**	**X**	**X**			**X**
Central CSD*	**Clayton**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
Clayton Ridge CSD*	**Clayton**	**X**				**X**
Decorah CSD*	**Winneshiek**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**
Eastern Allamakee CSD	Allamakee	X				
Howard-Winneshiek CSD*	**Howard**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**
MFL MarMac CSD*	**Clayton**	**X**			**X**	**X**
New Hampton CSD*	**Chickasaw**		**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
North Fayette CSD*	**Fayette**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**
North Winneshiek CSD*	**Winneshiek**			**X**		**X**
Oelwein CSD*	**Fayette**	**X**			**X**	**X**
Postville CSD*	**Allamakee**				**X**	**X**
Riceville CSD*	**Howard**	**X**		**X**	**X**	**X**
South Winneshiek CSD*	**Winneshiek**	**X**	**X**		**X**	**X**
Starmont CSD*	**Fayette**			**X**		**X**
Turkey Valley CSD*	**Winneshiek**					**X**
Valley CSD*	**Fayette**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**	**X**
West Central CSD*	**Fayette**			**X**	**X**	**X**
Private/Parochial Schools						
CFS Catholic School	Winneshiek	X				
De Sales School	Winneshiek	X	X			
Notre Dame Catholic School	Howard	X				
Sacred Heart Elementary School	Fayette	X				
St. Benedict School	Winneshiek					
St. Joseph Community School*	**Chickasaw**			**X**	**X**	**X**
St. Mary's Catholic School	Clayton	X				
St. Patrick School	Allamakee	X				
Torah Educational Program (Yeshiva)	Allamakee	X				

Figure 2. This table represents public and private schools which have participated in the Northeast Iowa Safe Routes to School Travel Tally between 2008-2013.

2012-2013 participating schools= denoted by (*) and bolded

(Historical Comparisons continued)

The next two figures, Figures 3 and 4, compare 2012-2013 SRTS Travel Tally results with those from previous years. Figure 3 shows the percentage of walking and bicycling trips to and from school since 2008-2009, broken down by school year; please note that the 2012-2013 Walk/Bike percentage takes into account all modes of active transportation (walk, bike, skate and scoot).

Decorah Community School District students participate in a Walking School Bus.

Figure 4 compares student walking and bicycling trips to trips taken by school bus as well as trips taken by family vehicle, carpool and public transit; please note that the 2012-2013 Walk/Bike percentage takes into account all modes of active transportation (walk, bike, skate and scoot).

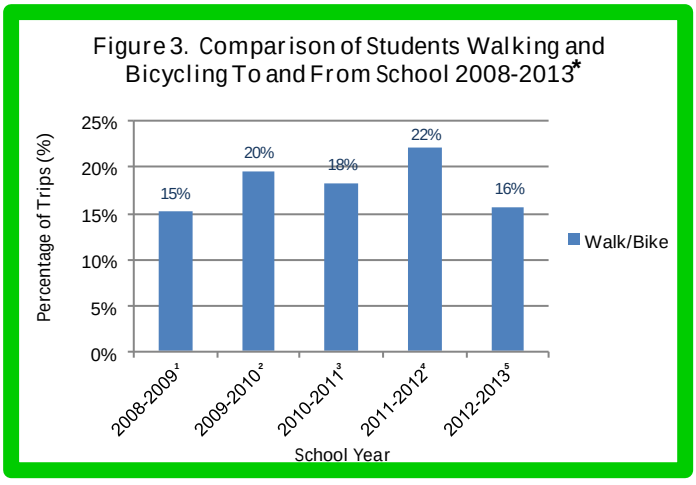


Figure 3. Northeast Iowa's student walking and bicycling results compared 2008 to present.

*= Note that the 2012-2013 "Walk/Bike" percentage takes into account all modes of active transportation (walking, bicycling, skating and scooting).

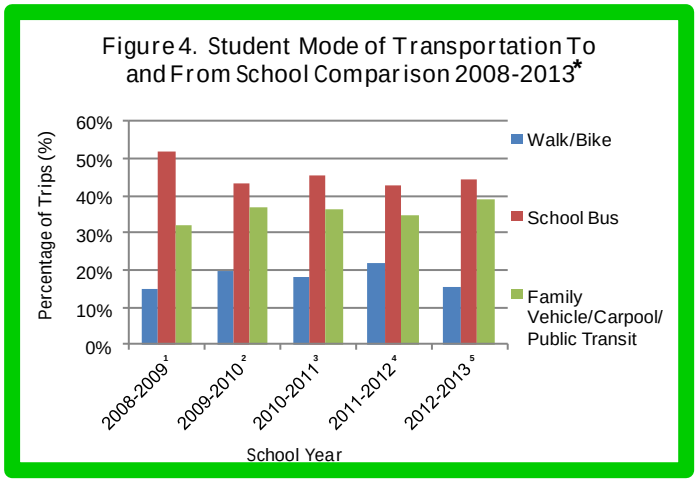


Figure 4. Northeast Iowa's comparison of student walking and bicycling trips to student motor vehicle trips from 2008 to present.

*= Note that the 2012-2013 "Walk/Bike" percentage takes into account all modes of active transportation (walking, bicycling, skating and scooting).

[1] 2008-2009 schools EXCLUDED from comparison data due to isolated school profile: Valley CSD (Valley Community School).

[2] 2009-2010 schools EXCLUDED from comparison data due to isolated school profile: Valley CSD (Valley Community School).

[3] 2010-2011 schools EXCLUDED from comparison data due to isolated school profile: North Winneshiek CSD (North Winneshiek Community School), Starmont CSD (Starmont Community School) and Valley CSD (Valley Community School).

[4] 2011-2012 schools EXCLUDED from comparison due to isolated school profile or age of students: Oelwein CSD (Little Husky Learning Center– Pre-K through K) and Valley CSD (Valley Community School– isolated).

[5] 2011-2012 schools EXCLUDED from comparison due to isolated school profile or age of students: Oelwein CSD (Little Husky Learning Center– Pre-K through K), North Winneshiek CSD (North Winneshiek Elementary School– isolated), Starmont CSD (Starmont Elementary School– isolated), Valley CSD (Valley Community School– isolated), Turkey Valley CSD (Turkey Valley Elementary School– isolated).

CSD= Community School District

2012–2013 Information

Data comparison specific to the 2012-2013 SRTS Travel Tally is presented below. Figure 5 summarizes the percentage of trips per travel mode for all schools: walk, bike, skate/scoot, school bus, family vehicle, carpool and public transit.

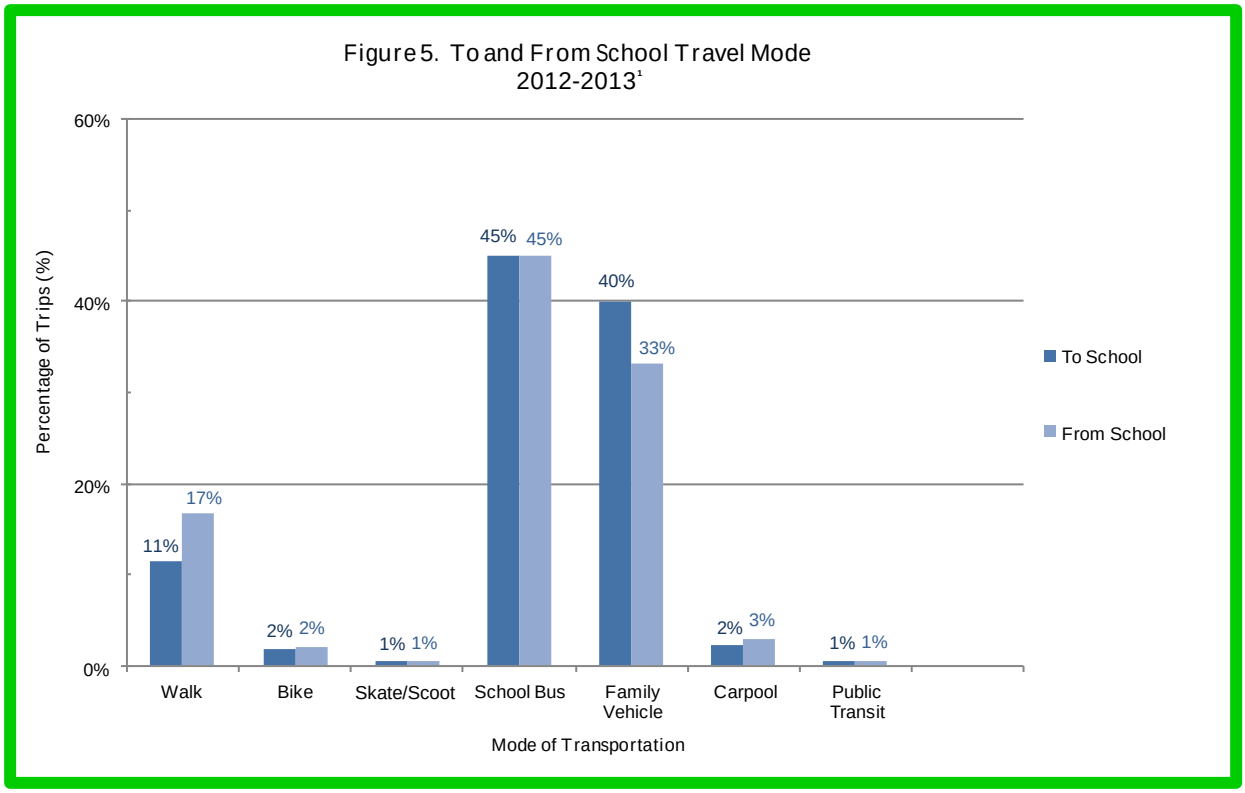


Figure 5. This graph denotes the percentage of trips per mode of transportation for all schools combined for the 2012-2013 school year.

North Fayette Community School District students participate in a Walking School Bus.

[1] 2011-2012 schools EXCLUDED from comparison due to isolated school profile or age of students: Oelwein CSD (Little Husky Learning Center– Pre-K through K), North Winneshiek CSD (North Winneshiek Elementary School– isolated), Starmont CSD (Starmont Elementary School– isolated), Valley CSD (Valley Community School– isolated), Turkey Valley CSD (Turkey Valley Elementary School– isolated).

CSD= Community School District

(2012-2013 Information continued)

Figure 6 is the active transportation trips to and from school (walking, bicycling, skating, scooting) compared to trips by school bus and family vehicle, carpool and public transit for the 2012-2013 schools.

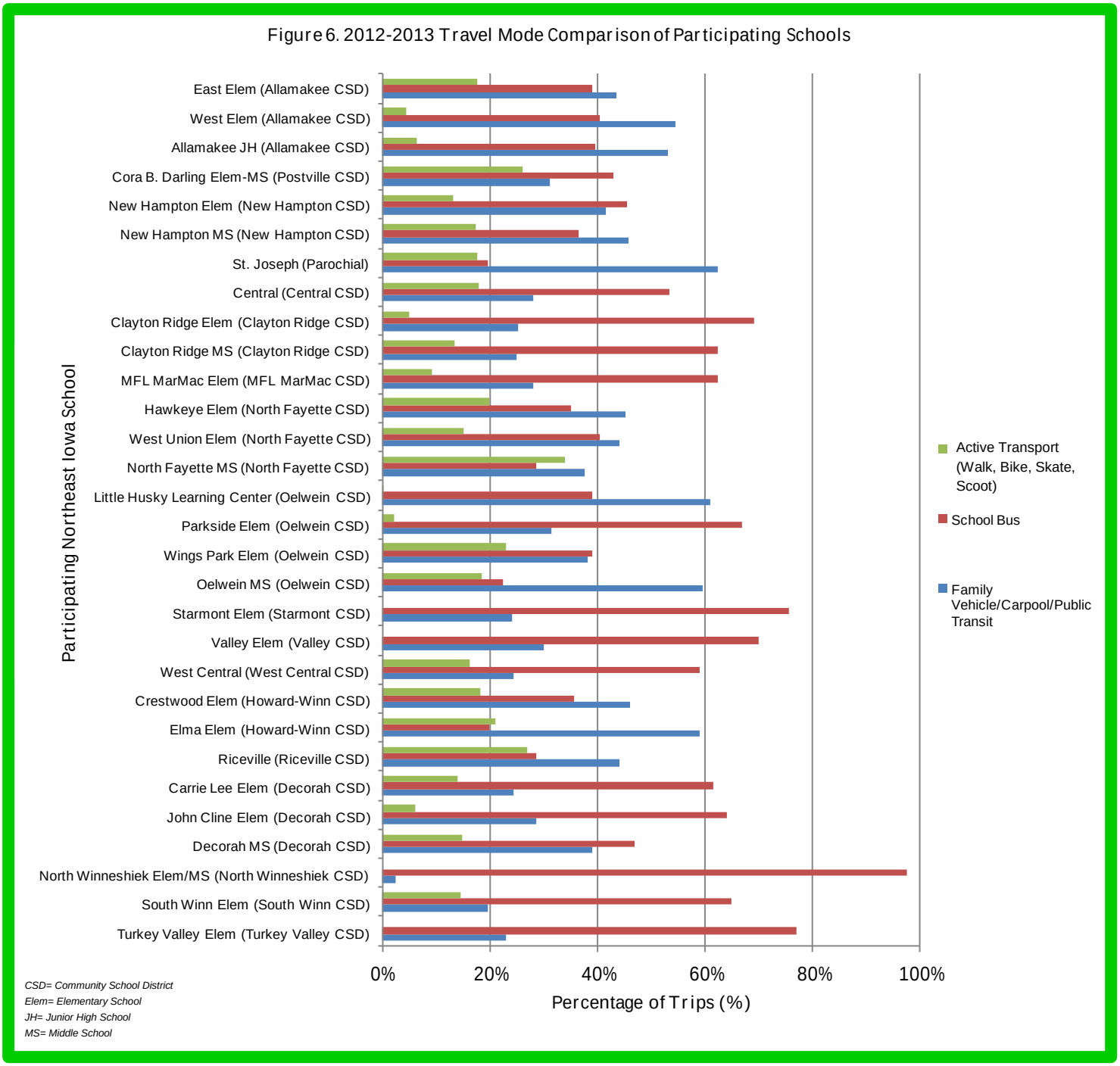


Figure 6. This bar graph comparesthe percentage of trips students took via walking/bicycling, school bus and family vehicle/carpool/public transit for each school participating in the 2012-2013 SRTS Travel Tally

2012-2013 Individual School Summaries

Allamakee County

Allamakee Community School District — Allamakee County

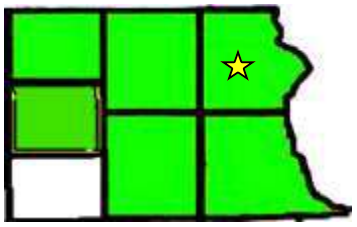
East Elementary School — *Grades 3-6*

Waukon, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1256 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 777

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



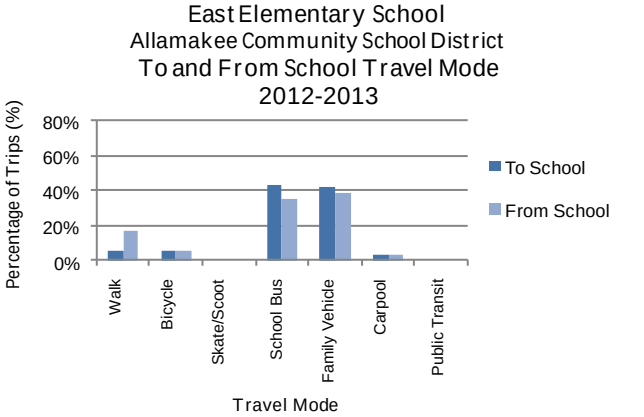
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

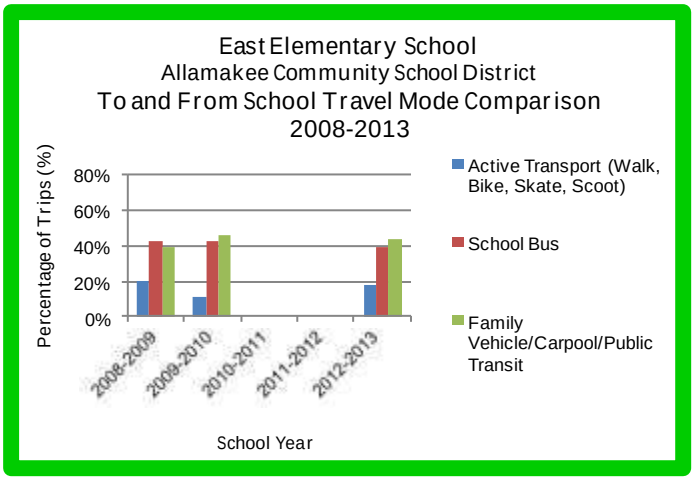
- 3 Walking School Buses in Waukon
- Mileage Club in Waterville
- Walkability Assessments of Walking School Bus routes in Waukon
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Creation of the Bike Blender
- Bike License Program in 3rd grade
- Zumba for K-6th graders
- Class fitness drills/walks

Students participate in Waukon's first Walking School Bus.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase Walking School Bus participation and support
- Host a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with Bike License Program
- Engage Waterville Elementary School in SRTS





Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. (2013a). 2012-2013 Iowa Public School PreK-12 Enrollment by District Grade, Race and Gender [Data File]. Retrieved from http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=391&Itemid=4303.

Allamakee Community School District — *Allamakee County*

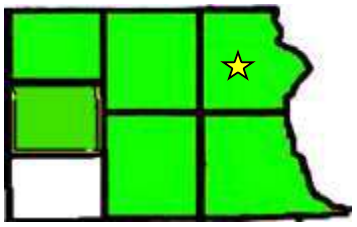
West Elementary School — *Grades PK-2*

Waukon, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1256 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 777

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



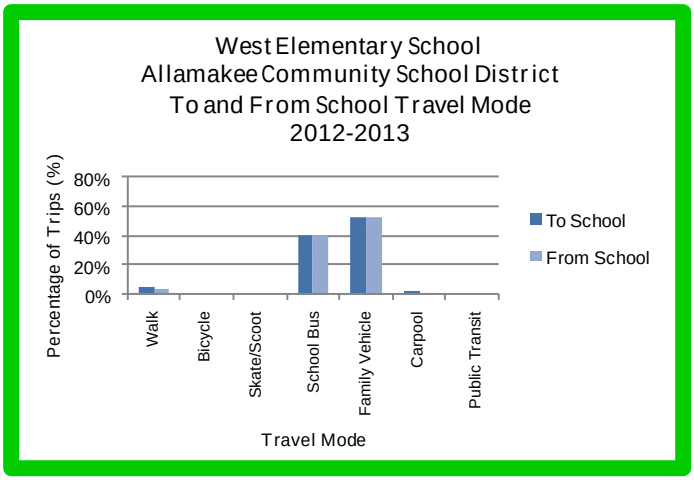
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

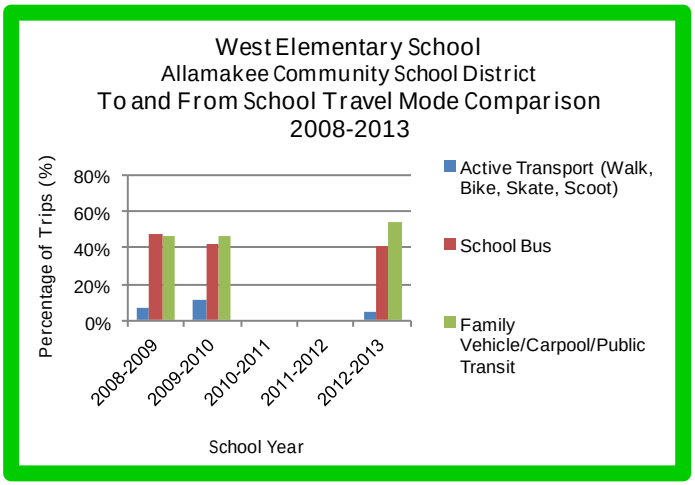
- 3 Walking School Buses in Waukon
- Mileage Club in Waterville
- Walkability Assessments of Walking School Bus routes in Waukon
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Creation of the Bike Blender
- Bike License Program in 3rd grade
- Zumba for K-6th graders
- Class fitness drills/walks

Allamakee Community School District was the birthplace of the Bike Blender, a human-powered smoothie machine!

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase Walking School Bus participation and support
- Host a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with Bike License Program
- Engage Waterville Elementary School in SRTS





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Allamakee Community School District — *Allamakee County*

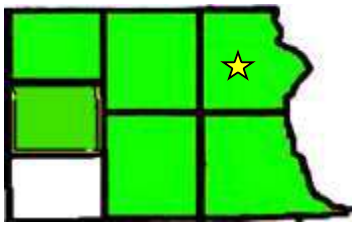
Allamakee Junior High School — *Grades 7-8*

Waukon, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1256 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 777

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



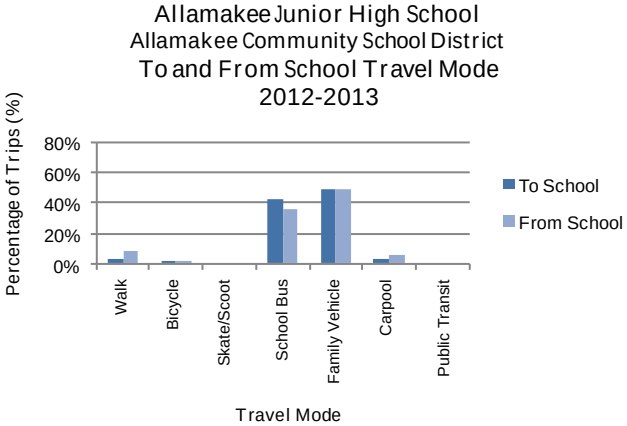
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

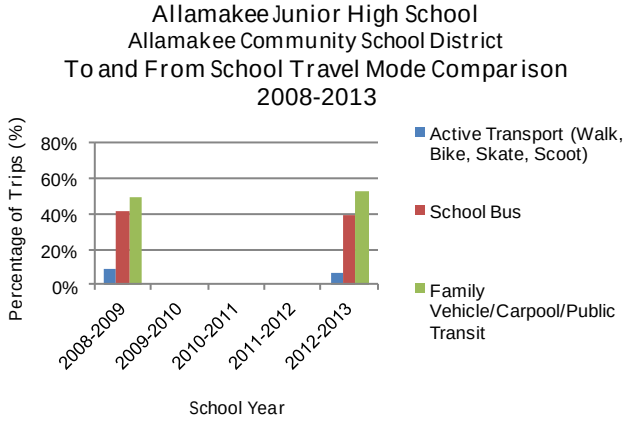
- 3 Walking School Buses in Waukon
- Mileage Club in Waterville
- Walkability Assessments of Walking School Bus routes in Waukon
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Creation of the Bike Blender
- Bike License Program in 3rd grade
- Zumba for K-6th graders
- Class fitness drills/walks

Allamakee Community School District students participate in a walkability assessment of one of the Walking School Bus routes in Waukon.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase Walking School Bus participation and support
- Host a Bike Rodeo in conjunction with Bike License Program
- Engage Waterville Elementary School in SRTS





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Postville Community School District — *Allamakee County*

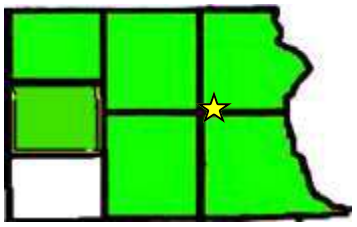
Cora B. Darling Elementary-Middle School — *Grades K-8*

Postville, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 668 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 466

School Profile: Single K-12 Building in Single Town



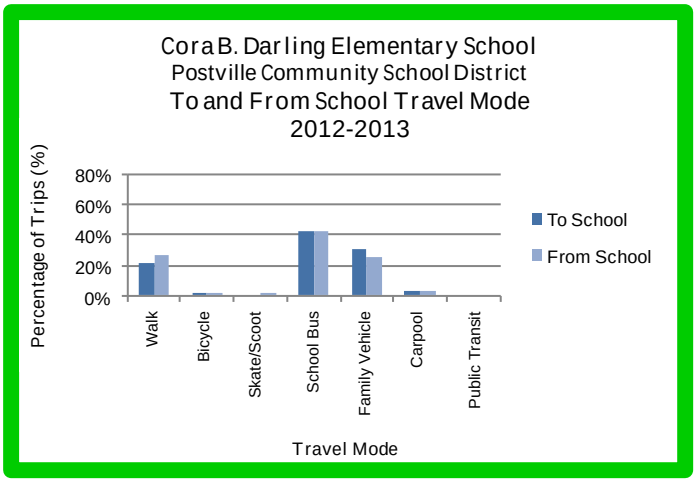
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

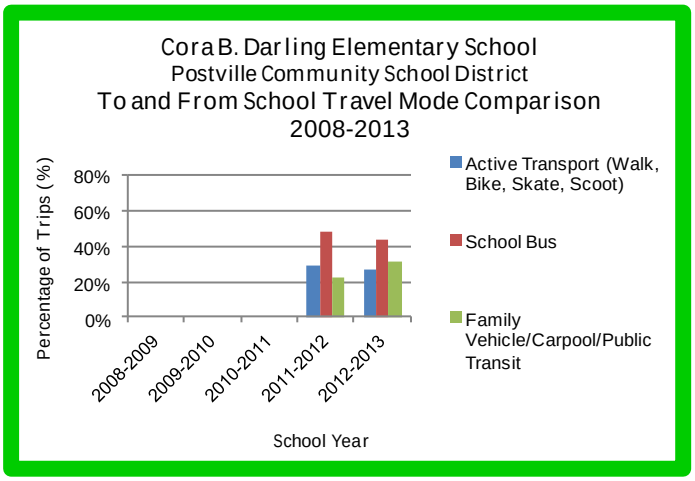
- 2 Walking School Buses
- Mileage Club for After-School Program
- Selected as I-WALK school
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- National Bike to School Day (held week-long event)
- Bike Rodeo during elementary PE class
- FFI 4-H Youth Team activities: Tour de Allamakee County Bike Ride and Park It (outdoor activity evening)
- Spring Fling Wellness Fair

Students participate in a Walking School Bus in Postville.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Host Bike Rodeo
- Incorporate simple, cost-effective improvements based on I-WALK results
- Walking School Bus support





Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. (2013a). 2012-2013 Iowa Public School PreK-12 Enrollment by District Grade, Race and Gender [Data File]. Retrieved from http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=391&Itemid=4303.

New Hampton Community School District — Chickasaw County

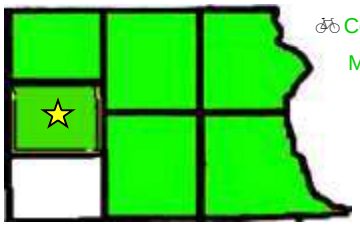
New Hampton Elementary School — *Grades PK-4*

New Hampton, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1087 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 629

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



Community GIS Map Recipient

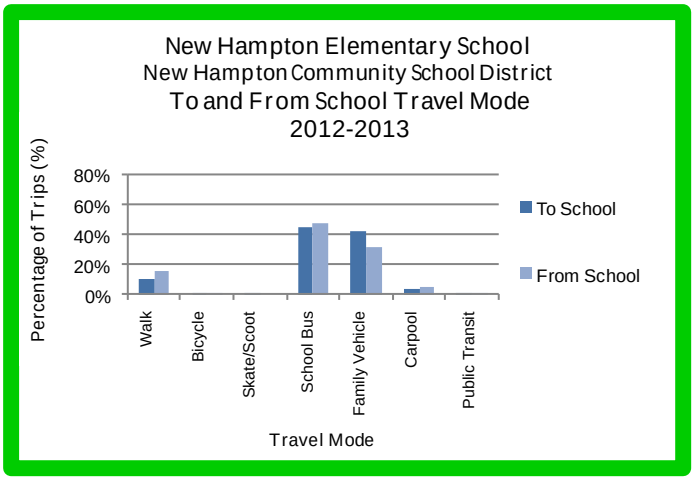
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

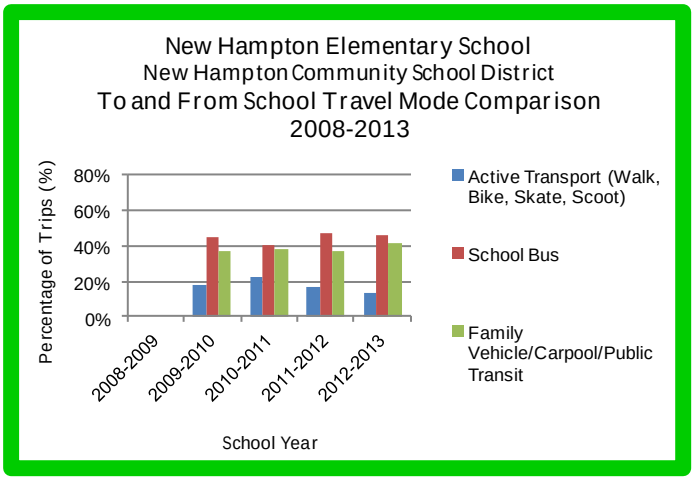
- Brain Gym (short bursts of physical activity) activities incorporated into the school day
- 1 Walking School Bus

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Re-engage Walking School Buses
- Promote SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Students at New Hampton Community School District actively engaged in a lesson.





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New Hampton Community School District — Chickasaw County

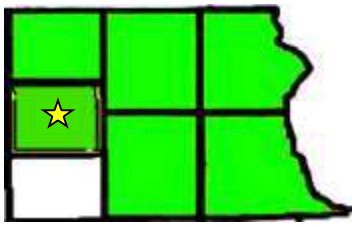
New Hampton Middle School — *Grades 5-8*

New Hampton, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1087 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 629

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



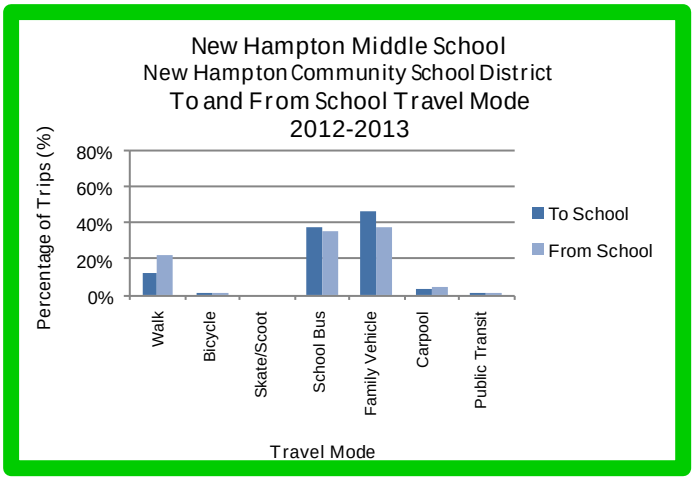
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

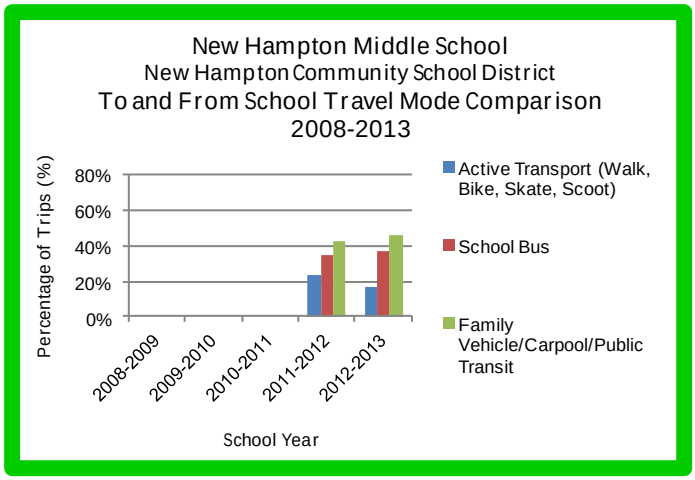
- Brain Gym (short bursts of physical activity) activities incorporated into the school day
- 1 Walking School Bus

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Re-engage Walking School Buses
- Promote SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Area students comment on why they like to bike.





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St. Joseph Community School — Chickasaw County

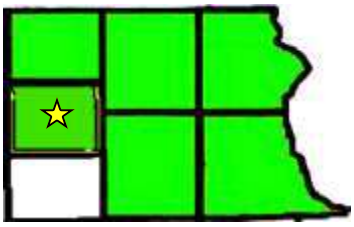
St. Joseph Community School — *Grades PK-8*

New Hampton, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 204 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013b)

K-8 Enrollment: 182

School Profile: Private PK-8 School



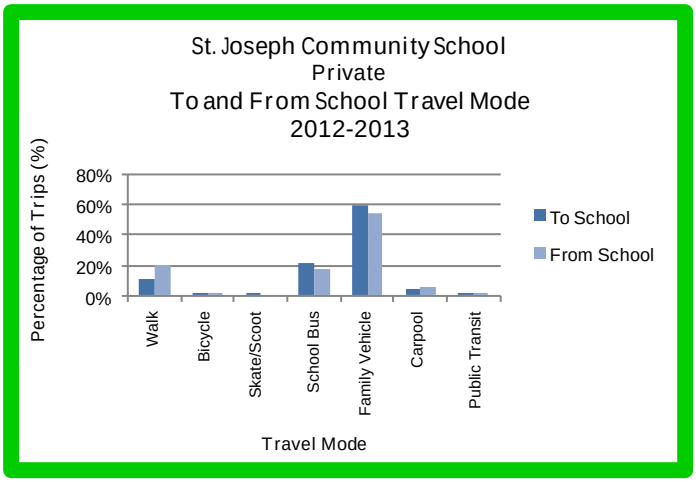
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

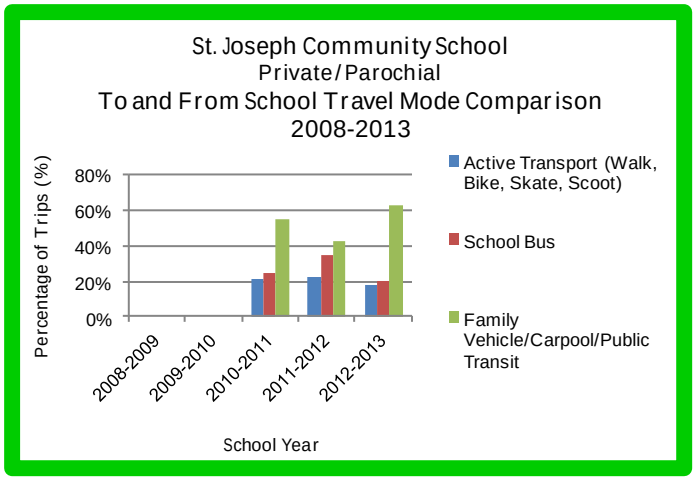
- Mileage Club
- Walkability Assessment of route to recreation center in New Hampton
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Live Health Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Monthly school-wide fitness activity
- Monthly after school fitness activity
- 20 minute weekly classroom walks

Future SRTS Plans:

- Start Walking School Buses
- Support current Mileage Club
- Support current school-wide and after school fitness activities

St. Joseph Community School students participate in a Walkability Assessment of New Hampton.





Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. (2013b). 2012-2013 Iowa Non-Public School PreK-12 Enrollment by School, Grade, Race and Gender [Data File]. Retrieved from http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=512&Itemid=4441.

Clayton County

Central Community School District

Clayton County

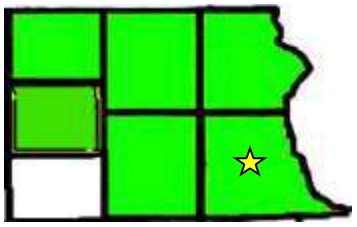
Central Elementary School *Grades PK-5*

Elkader, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 542 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 335

School Profile: Single K-12 Building in Single Town



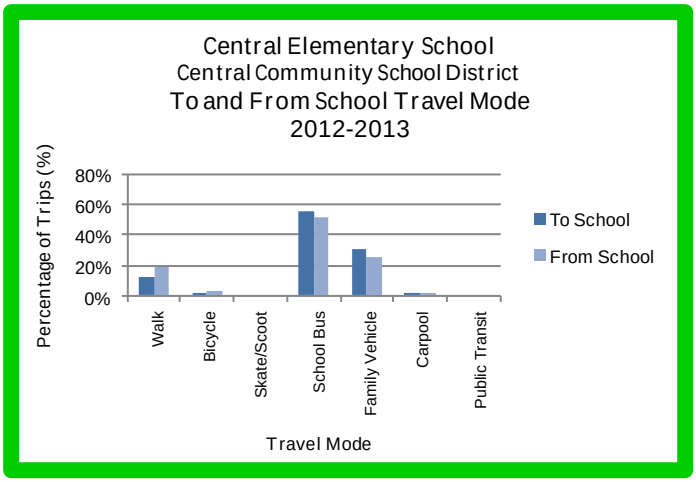
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

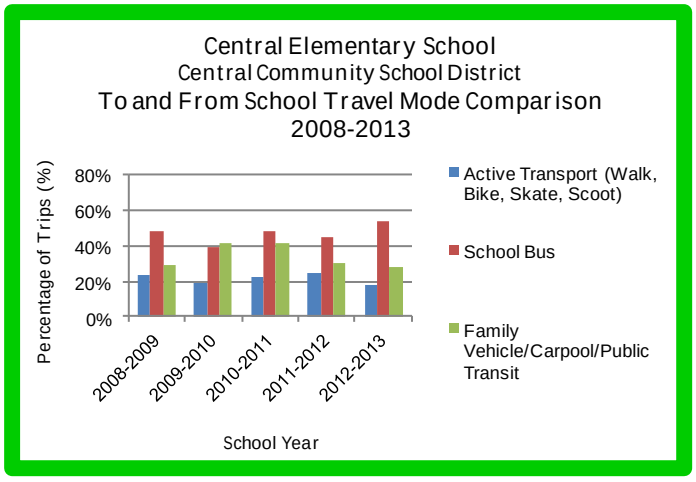
- Walkability Assessment of potential Walking School Bus routes in Elkader
- International Walk to School Day
- National Bike to School Day
- Healthier US School Challenge Bronze Award
- Bike Safety Education taught in PE courses
- Annual 5k run hosted by FFI 4-H Youth Team
- Bikes and helmets available for student to use at recess

Families participate in Central Community School District's International Walk to School Day celebration.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS activities such as International Walk to School Day





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Clayton Ridge Community School District — Clayton County

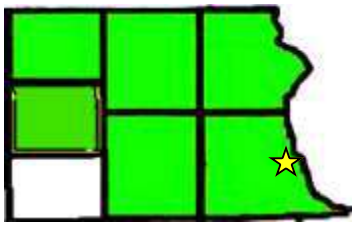
Clayton Ridge Elementary School — *Grades PK-4*

Guttenberg, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 618 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 358

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



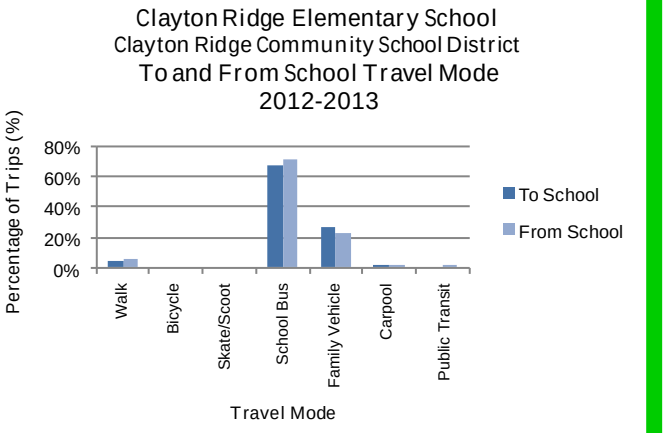
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

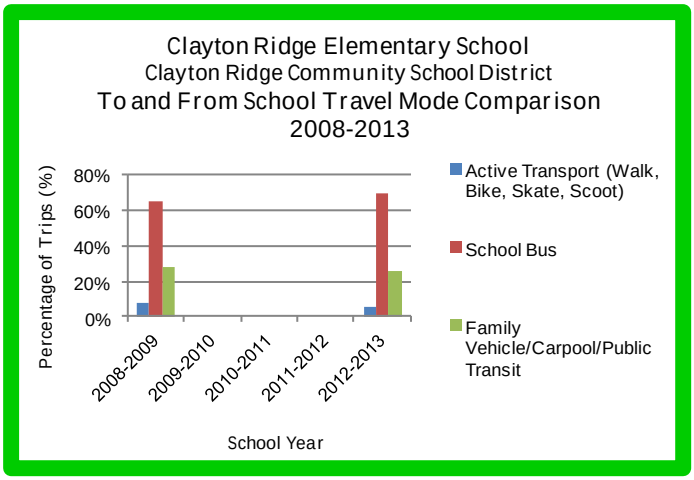
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Health Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Walk Once a Week "WOW"
- Fitness Fridays at middle school

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS activities such as International Walk to School Day

Clayton Ridge Community School District students actively engage in a classroom lesson.





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Clayton Ridge Community School District — *Clayton County*

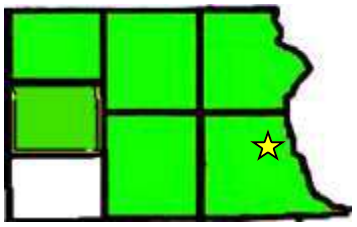
Clayton Ridge Middle School — *Grades 5-8*

Garnavillo, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 618 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 358

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



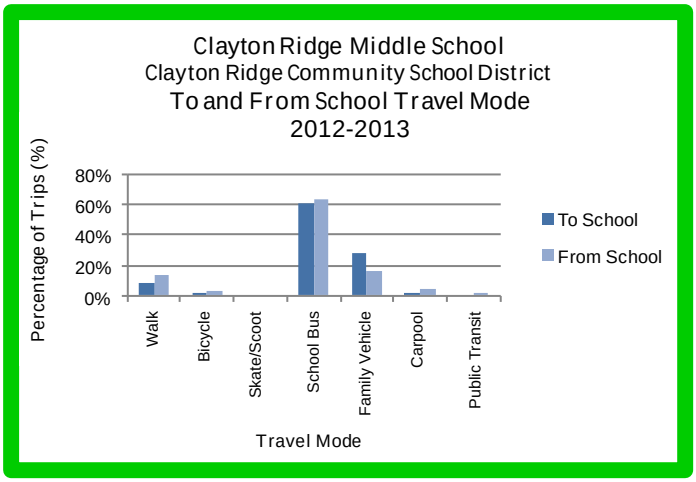
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

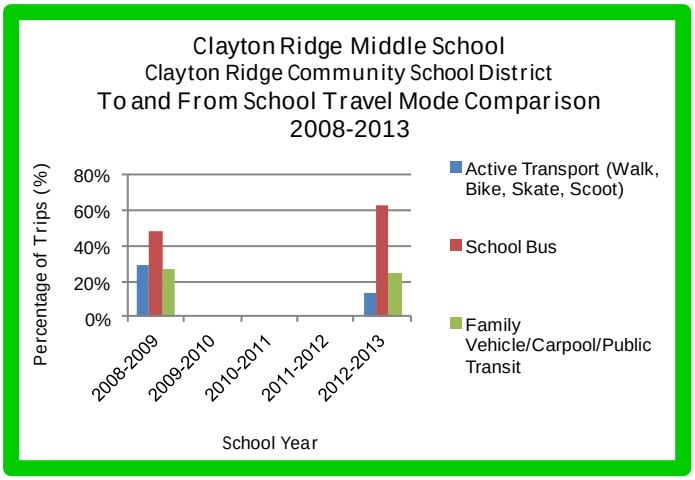
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Walk Once a Week "WOW"
- Fitness Fridays at middle school

Clayton Ridge Community School District students enjoy some outdoor activity.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS activities such as International Walk to School Day





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MFL MarMac Community School District — Clayton County

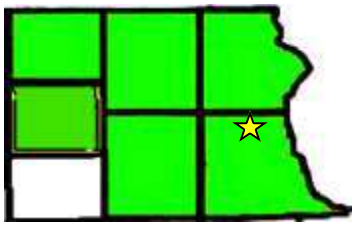
MFL MarMac Elementary School — *Grades PK-3*

Monona, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 840 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 542

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



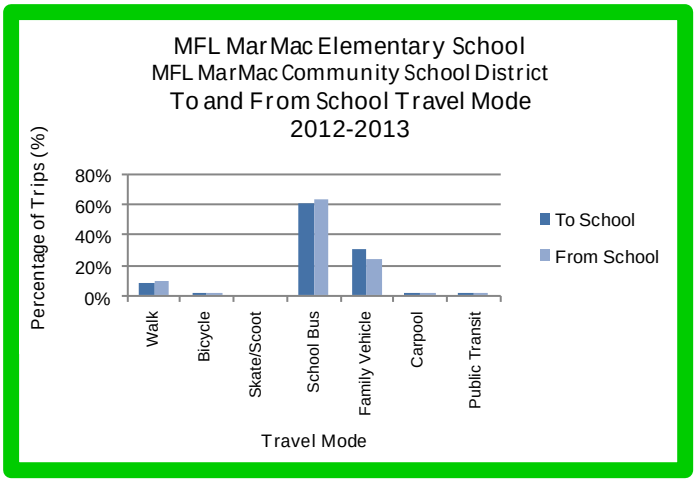
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

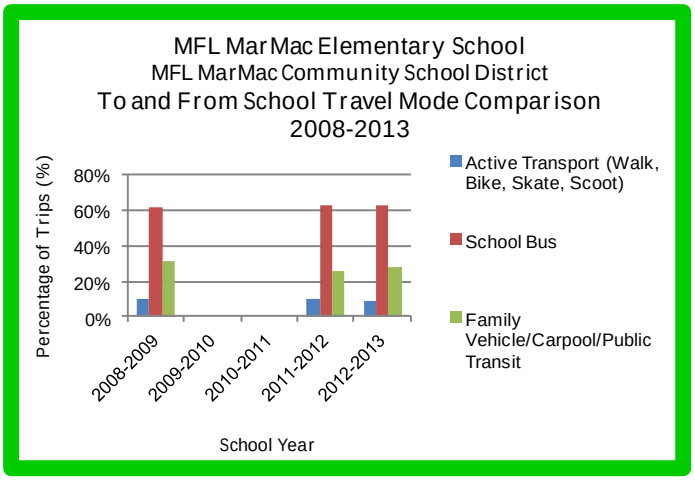
- Mileage Club at middle school
- International Walk to School Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Go the Distance Day
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids Fall Fitness Day
- School Wellness Fair
- 5 minutes Zumba Drills before class for 8th graders
- Zumba session held after school

MFL MarMac Community School District students jump for joy during their Fall Fitness Day.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS activities such as International Walk to School Day





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North Fayette Community School District

Fayette County

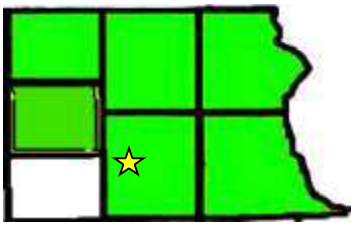
Hawkeye Elementary — *Grades PK, 1-2*

Hawkeye, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 776 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 528

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



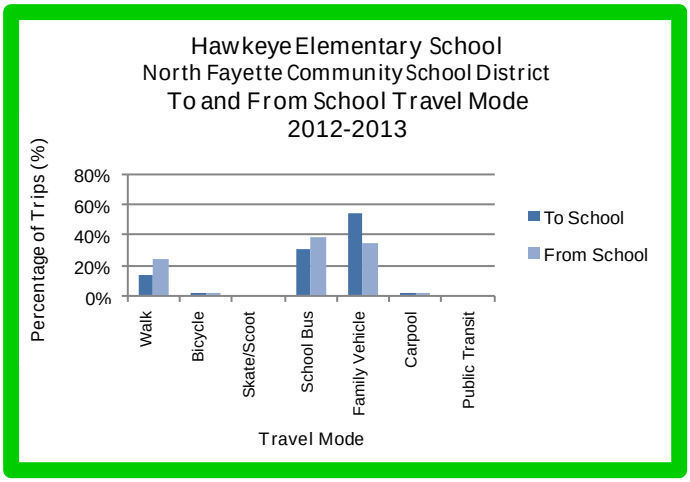
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

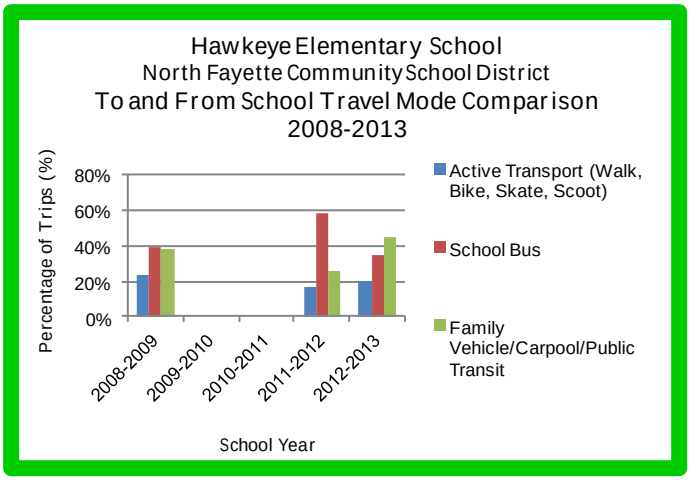
- 4 Walking School Buses in West Union
- Walkability Assessments of potential Walking School Bus routes in Hawkeye and Fayette
- International Walk to School Day
- Iowa Department of Public Health Walking School Bus Project

Community volunteers participate in the Walkability Assessment in Hawkeye.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support current Walking School Buses
- Create Walking School Buses in Hawkeye and Fayette
- Advocate for safer pedestrian crossings in West Union





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North Fayette Community School District — Fayette County

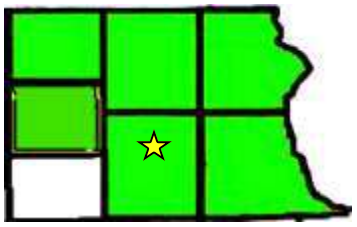
West Union Elementary School — *Grades PK-K, 3-6*

West Union, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 776 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 528

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



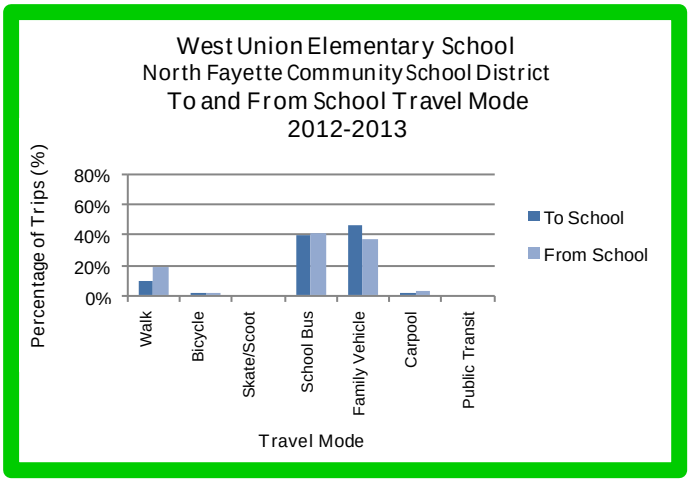
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

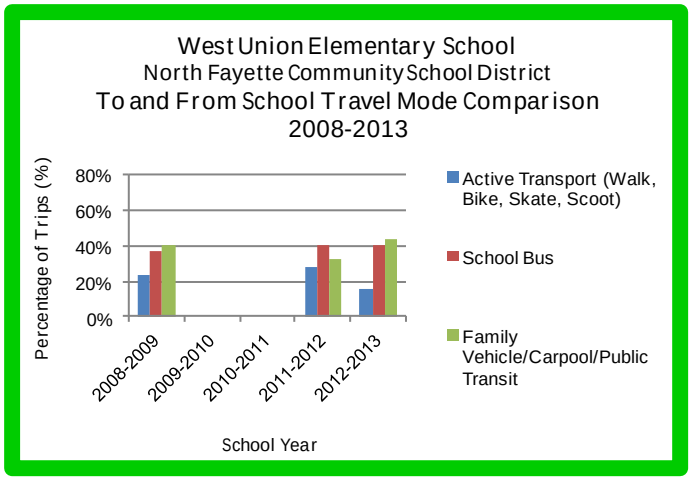
- 4 Walking School Buses in West Union
- Walkability Assessments of potential Walking School Bus routes in Hawkeye and Fayette
- International Walk to School Day
- Iowa Department of Public Health Walking School Bus Project

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support current Walking School Buses
- Create Walking School Buses in Hawkeye and Fayette
- Advocate for safer pedestrian crossings in West Union

Students enjoy the walk to school while participating in a Walking School Bus.





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North Fayette Community School District — Fayette County

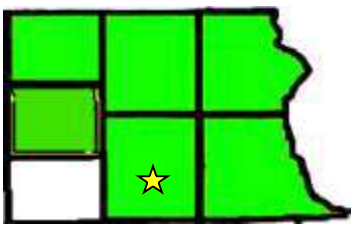
North Fayette Middle School — *Grades 7-8*

Fayette, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 776 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 528

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



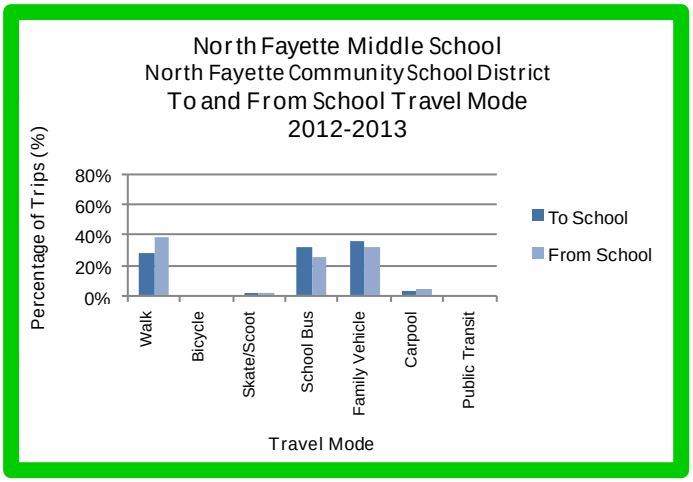
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

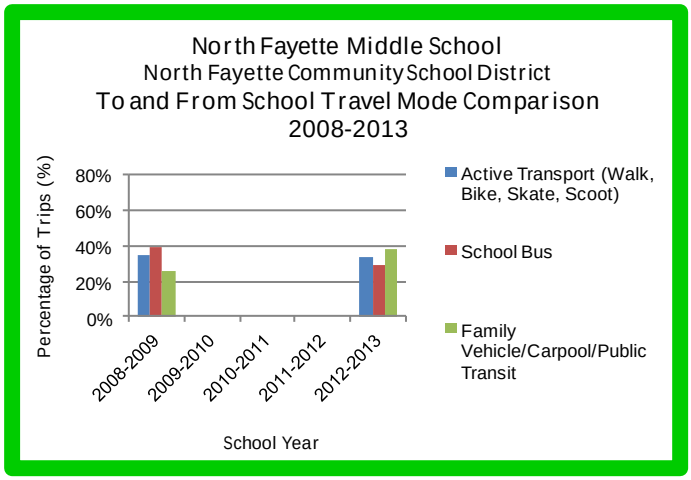
- 4 Walking School Buses in West Union
- Walkability Assessments of potential Walking School Bus routes in Hawkeye and Fayette
- International Walk to School Day
- Iowa Department of Public Health Walking School Bus Project

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support current Walking School Buses
- Create Walking School Buses in Hawkeye and Fayette
- Advocate for safer pedestrian crossings in West Union

Students enjoy the walk to school while participating in a Walking School Bus.





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Oelwein Community School District — Fayette County

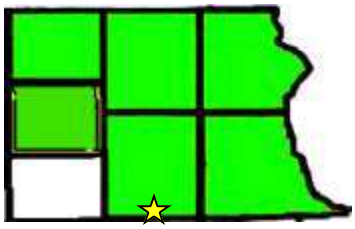
Little Husky Learning Center — *Grades PK-K*

Oelwein, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1378 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 812

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



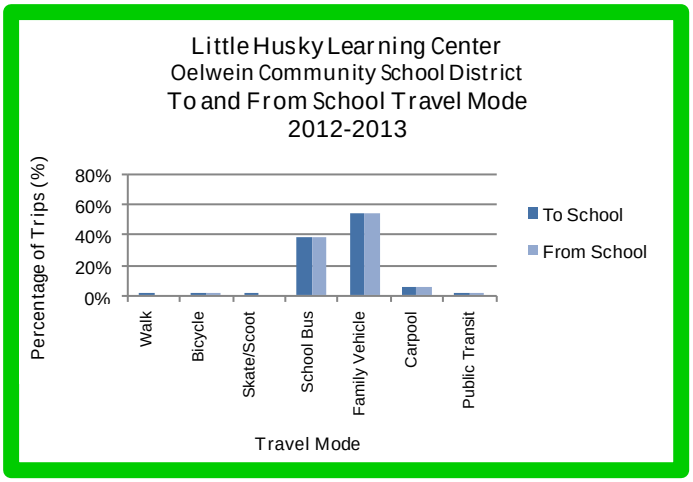
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

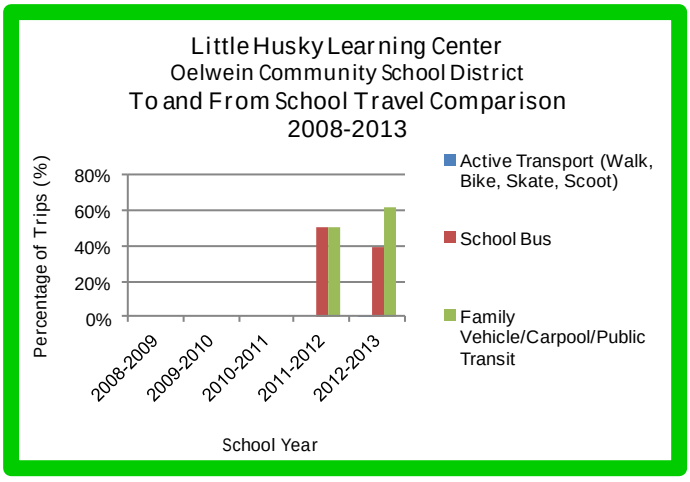
- 1 Walking School Bus
- Bike Rodeo held during Summer School
- Pedestrian Education during Summer School
- Selected as I-WALK school
- International Walk to School Day
- Spring Safety Fair
- Fitness Fridays at Little Husky Learning Center
- Track and Field Day at Little Husky Learning Center

Students learn hand signals during Summer School Bike Rodeo.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase participation in the Walking School Bus
- Engage Parkside Elementary in SRTS
- Continue to build SRTS Coalition





Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. (2013a). 2012-2013 Iowa Public School PreK-12 Enrollment by District Grade, Race and Gender [Data File]. Retrieved from http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=391&Itemid=4303.

Oelwein Community School District — Fayette County

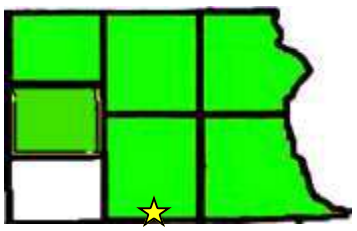
Parkside Elementary School — *Grades 1*

Oelwein, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1378 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 812

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



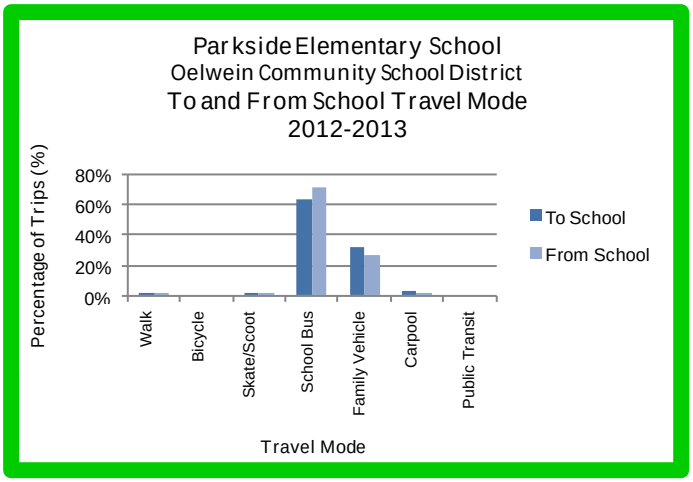
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

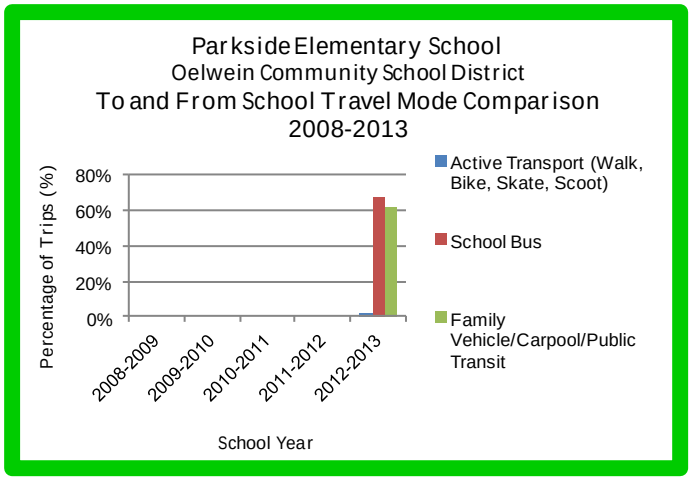
- 1 Walking School Bus
- Bike Rodeo held during Summer School
- Pedestrian Education during Summer School
- Selected as I-WALK school
- International Walk to School Day
- Spring Safety Fair
- Fitness Fridays at Little Husky Learning Center
- Track and Field Day at Little Husky Learning Center

Students make smoothies while pedaling the Bike Blender at the Spring Safety Fair.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase participation in the Walking School Bus
- Engage Parkside Elementary in SRTS
- Continue to build SRTS Coalition





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Oelwein Community School District — Fayette County

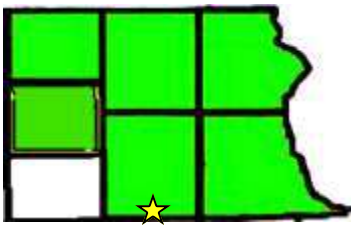
Wings Park Elementary School — *Grades 2-5*

Oelwein, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1378 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 812

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



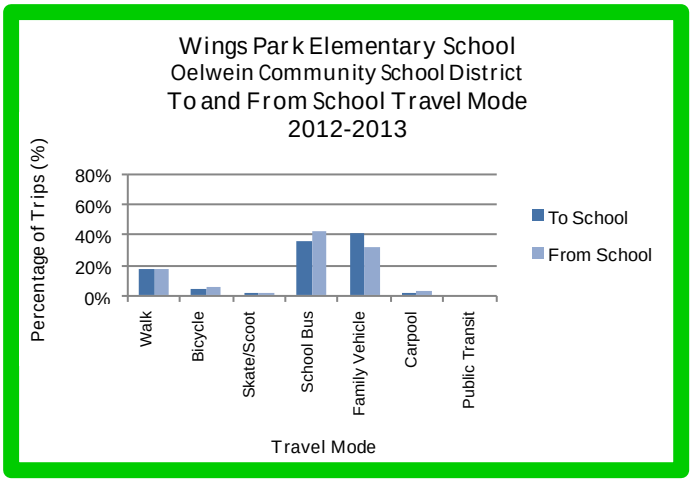
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

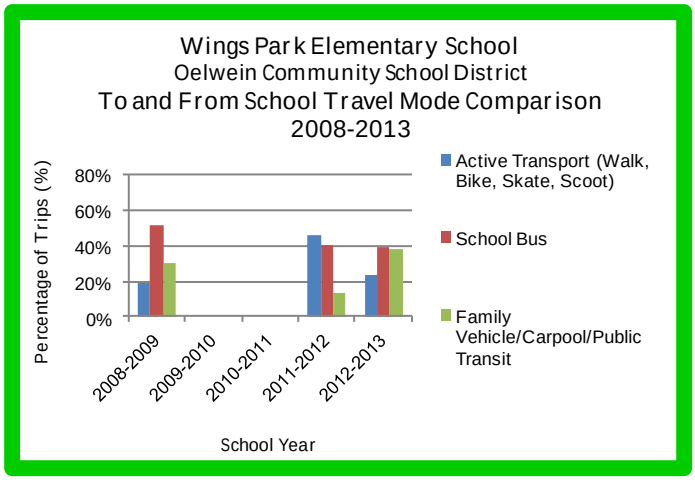
- 1 Walking School Bus
- Bike Rodeo held during Summer School
- Pedestrian Education during Summer School
- Selected as I-WALK school
- International Walk to School Day
- Spring Safety Fair
- Fitness Fridays at Little Husky Learning Center
- Track and Field Day at Little Husky Learning Center

Students participate in Oelwein's first Walking School Bus to Wings Park Elementary School.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase participation in the Walking School Bus
- Engage Parkside Elementary School in SRTS
- Continue to build SRTS Coalition





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Oelwein Community School District — Fayette County

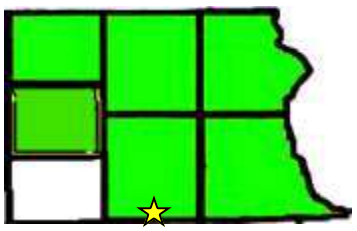
Oelwein Middle School — *Grades 6-8*

Oelwein, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1378 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 812

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



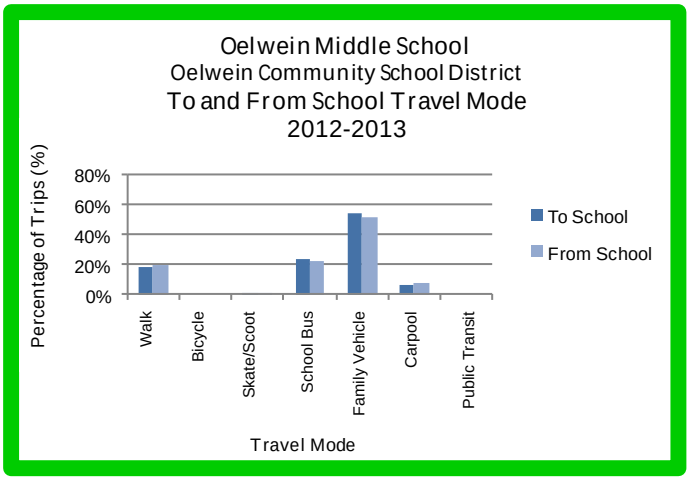
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

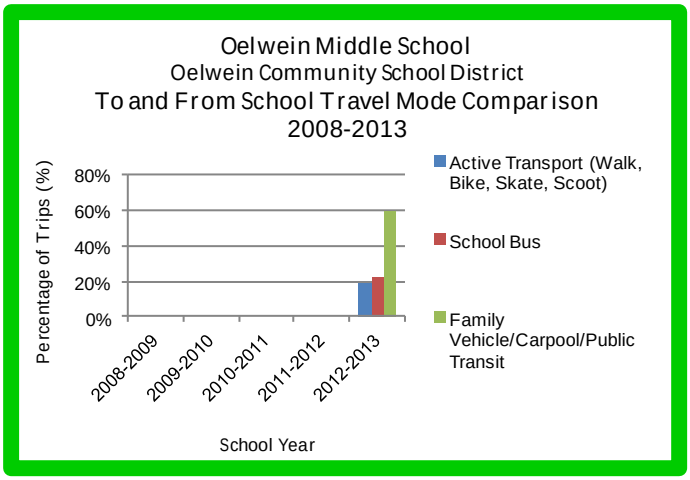
- 1 Walking School Bus
- Bike Rodeo held during Summer School
- Pedestrian Education during Summer School
- Selected as I-WALK school
- International Walk to School Day
- Spring Safety Fair
- Fitness Fridays at Little Husky Learning Center
- Track and Field Day at Little Husky Learning Center

Students participate in a walking scavenger hunt during their Pedestrian Safety Education lesson while at Summer School.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Increase participation in the Walking School Bus
- Engage Parkside Elementary in SRTS
- Continue to build SRTS Coalition





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Starmont Community School District — Fayette County

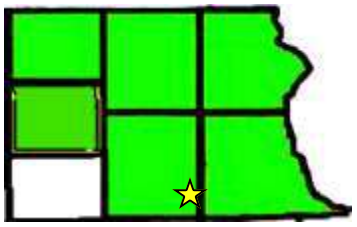
Starmont Elementary School — *Grades PK-5*

Arlington, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 647 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 419

School Profile: Isolated Single K-12 Building



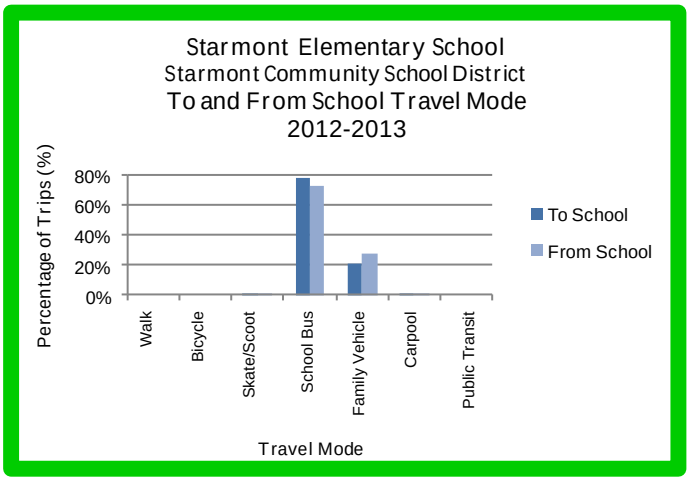
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

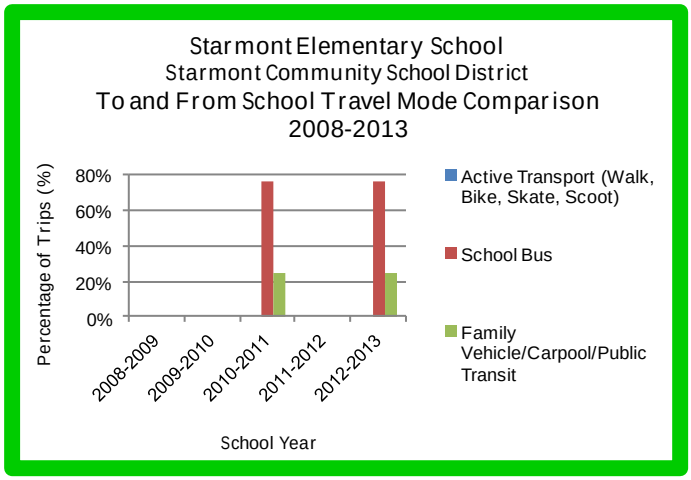
- High school students host Triathlon during Strawberry Days
- Recreation trail near school

Future SRTS Plans:

- Promote use of recreation trail surrounding school
- Encourage school to start a Mileage Club
- Host a Bike Rodeo

Area students comment on why they like to walk.





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Valley Community School District

Fayette County

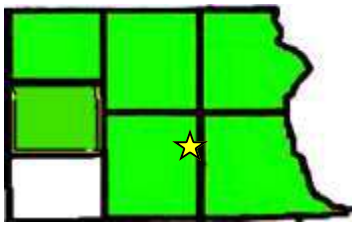
Valley Elementary School *Grades PK-5*

Elgin, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 443 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 268

School Profile: Isolated Single K-12 Building



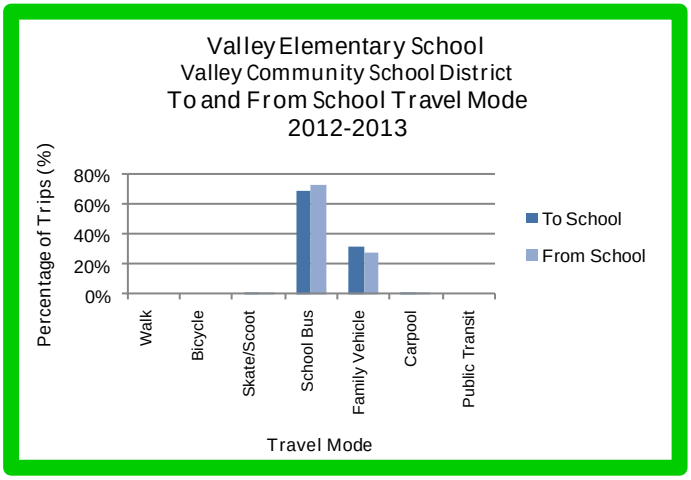
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

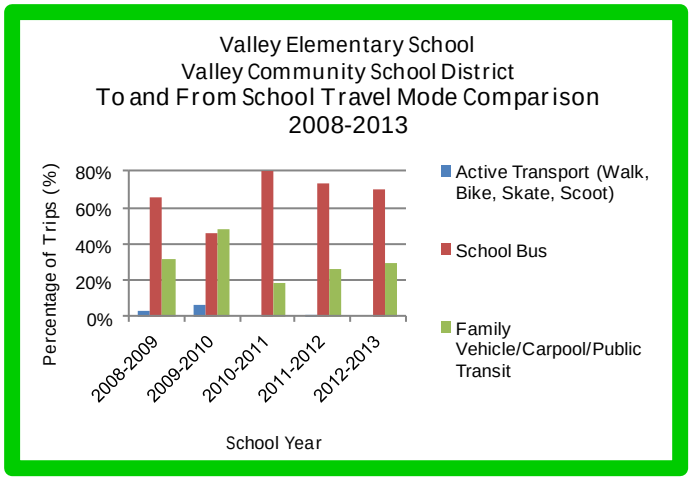
- International Walk to School Day
- National Bike to School Day (week-long celebration)
- Live Healthy Iowa Kids 10 Week Wellness Challenge
- Bike Safety taught to elementary students each year
- Bike check-out before and after school
- Bike rides hosted along trail during summer
- Recreation trail connecting school to Elgin and Clermont

Future SRTS Plans:

- Start Walking School Buses to utilize recreation trail
- Encourage school to bring back its Mileage Club
- Involve Valley representatives in SRTS Coalition for newly consolidated North Fayette Valley Community School District

For Bike to School Week, students who participated were placed in a drawing to win a brand new bike; the winner of the bike is pictured above.





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West Central Community School District — Fayette County

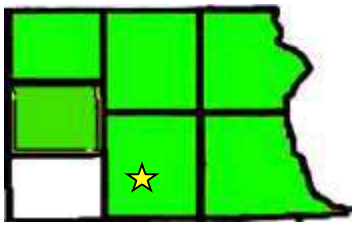
West Central Elementary School *Grades K-8*

Maynard, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 263 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 162

School Profile: Single K-12 Building in Single Town



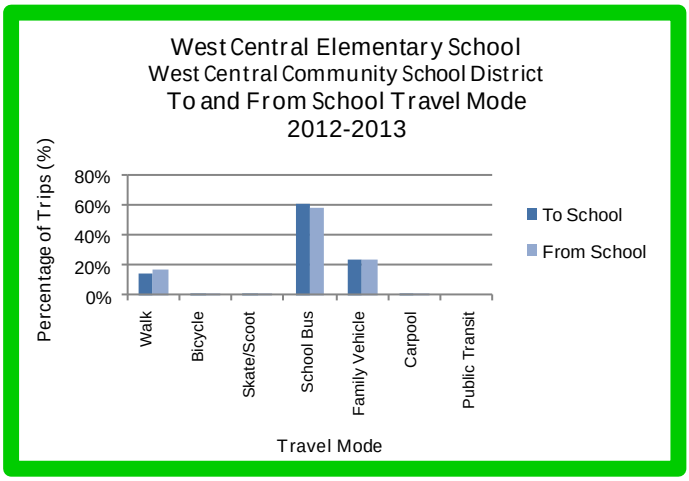
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

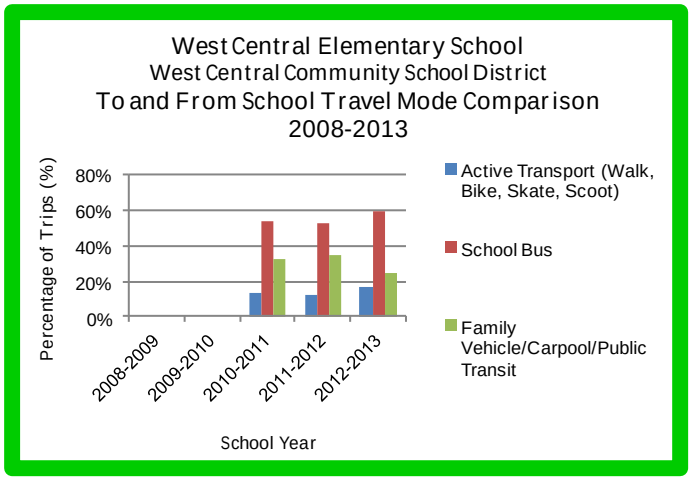
- School hosts monthly recreation nights
- Walking Wednesdays
- School hosted mini-Dance Marathon
- Dance moves taught in K-6th grade classrooms by high school students
- Pedestrian Safety Education incorporated into social studies courses

West Central Community School District's mini-Dance Marathon event.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build a relationship with school and community representatives
- Encourage school to host a SRTS event such as International Walk to School Day
- Start Walking School Buses





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Howard County

Howard-Winneshiek Community School District *Howard County*

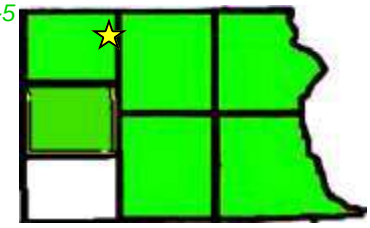
Crestwood Elementary School *Grades K-5*

Cresco, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1350 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 818

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



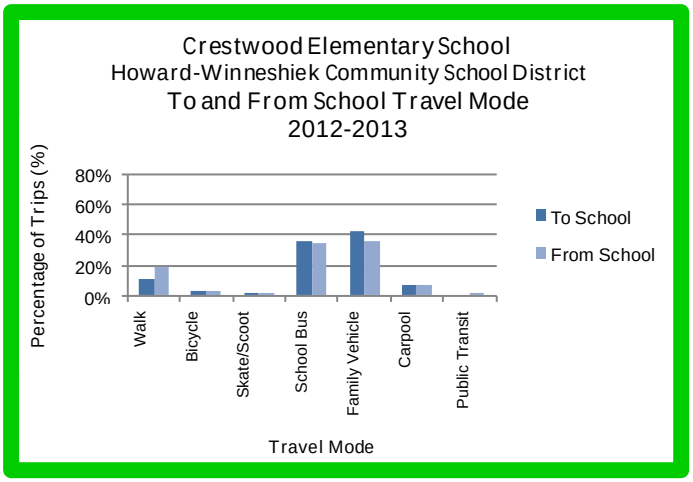
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

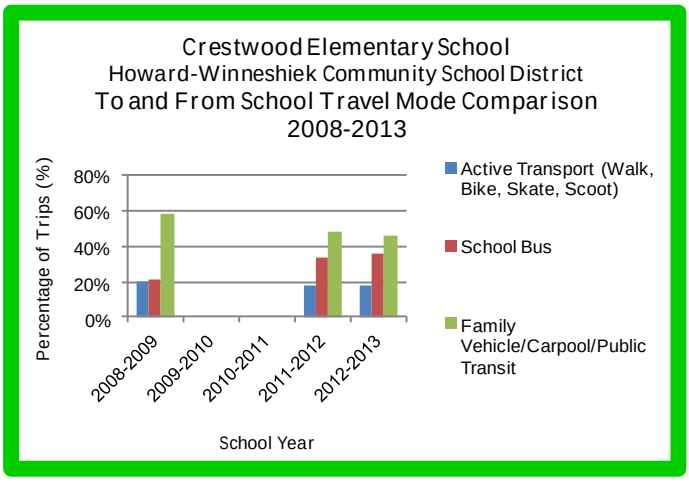
- International Walk to School Day
- Healthier US School Challenge Gold Award
- New recess equipment and pedometers

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build a relationship with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Howard Winneshiek Community School District students work outside planting a garden.





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Howard-Winneshiek Community School District *Howard County*

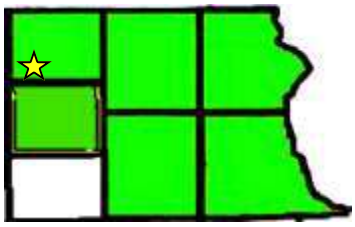
Elma Elementary School *Grades PK-5*

Elma, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1350 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 818

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



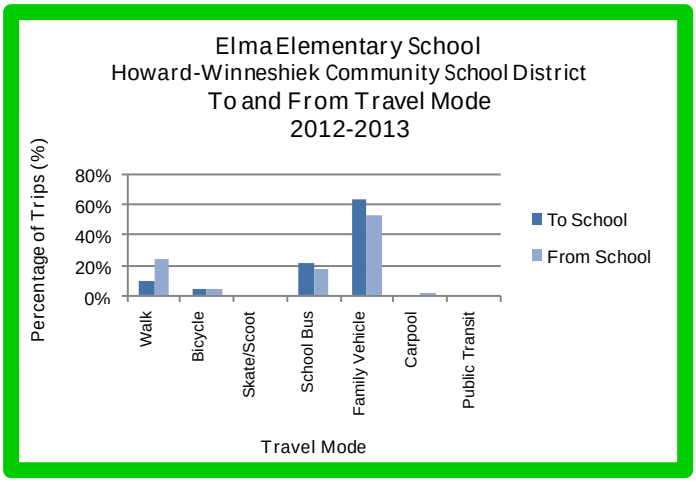
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

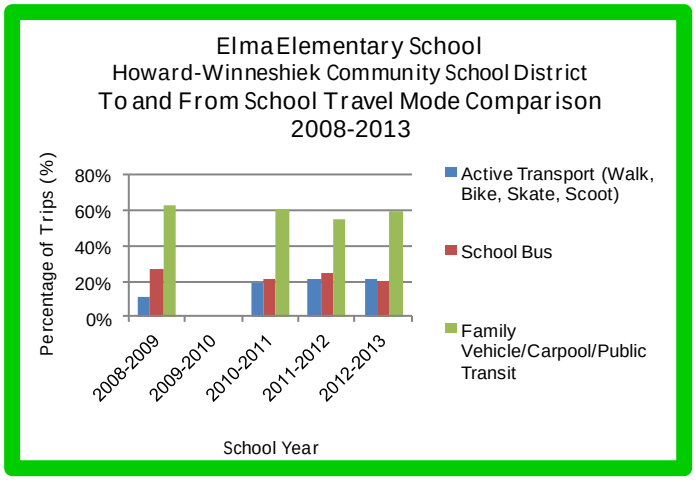
- International Walk to School Day
- Healthier US School Challenge Gold Award
- New recess equipment and pedometers

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build a relationship with school and community representatives
- Start Walking School Buses
- Support SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Howard Winneshiek Community School District students go on a nature hike outdoors.





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Riceville Community School District — Howard County

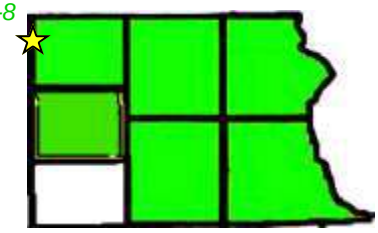
Riceville Elementary/Middle School — *Grades K-8*

Riceville, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 304 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 212

School Profile: Single K-12 Building in Single Town



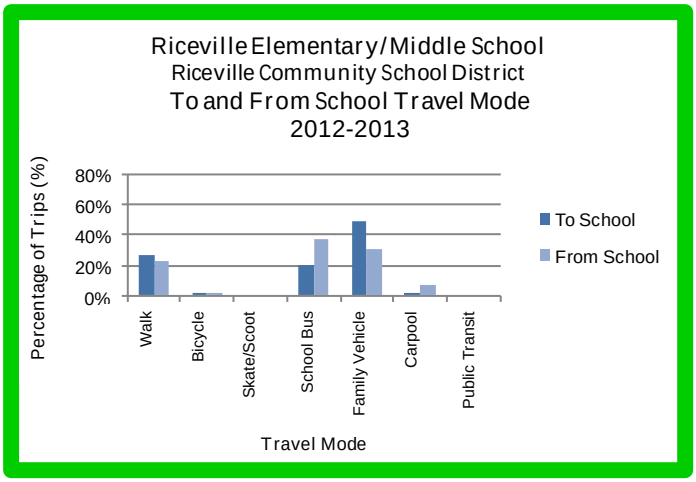
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

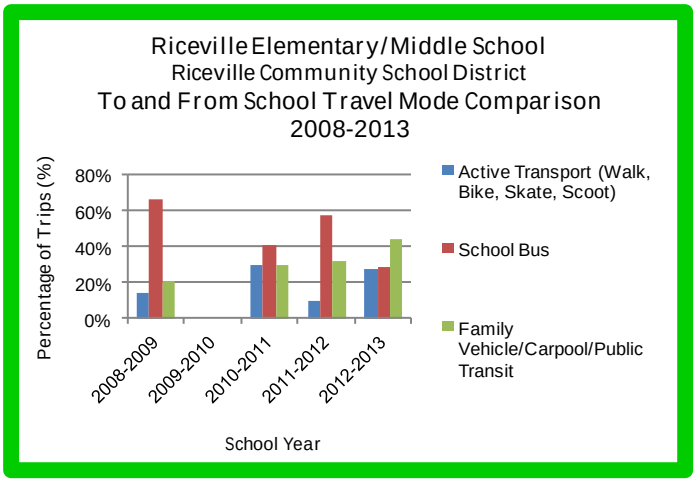
- Walking School Bus– monthly Walking Wednesday event for all elementary and middle school students
- Walkability Assessment of Walking Wednesday walking route
- International Walk to School Day
- National Bike to School Day
- Monthly fitness drills
- Wildcat Trail surrounding school

Riceville Community School District students off to school on a Walking School Bus during the school's monthly Walking Wednesday event.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Host Spring Bike Rodeo
- Support current Walking School Bus
- Support current SRTS events such as National Bike to School Day





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Winneshiek County

Decorah Community School District

Winneshiek County

Carrie Lee Elementary School

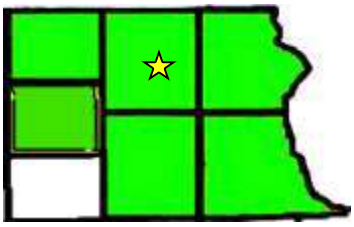
Grades 3-4

Decorah, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1763 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 1042

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



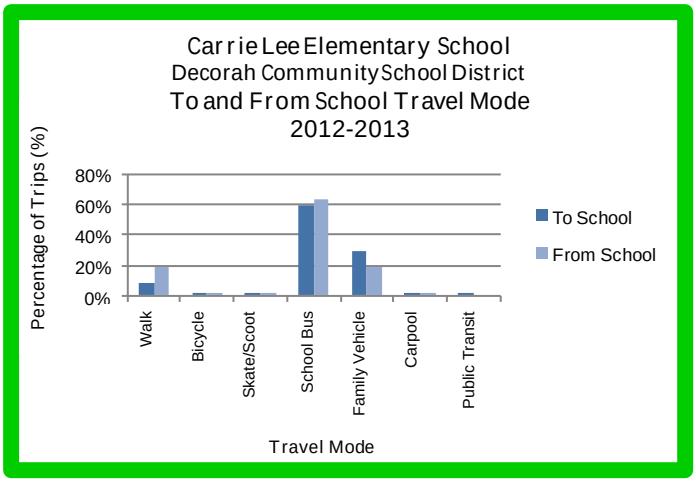
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

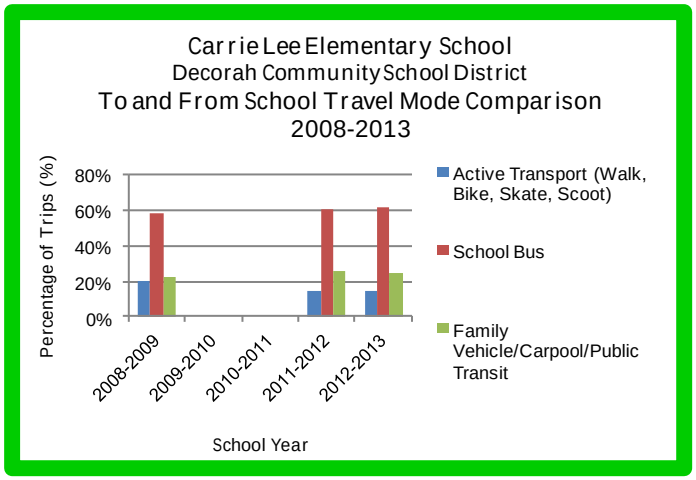
- 5 Walking School Buses
- Mileage Club at Carrie Lee Elementary School
- International Walk to School Day
- Walked to celebrate National Bike to School Day
- 4th grade activity monitors

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support and build current Walking School Buses
- Start more Walking School Buses in new neighborhoods
- Support current SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Decorah Community School District students participate in a Walking School Bus in Decorah.





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Decorah Community School District — Winneshiek County

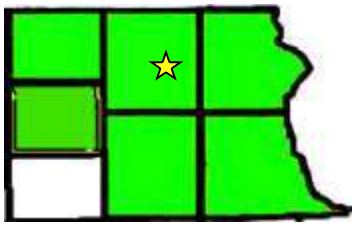
John Cline Elementary School — *Grades PK-2*

Decorah, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1763 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 1042

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



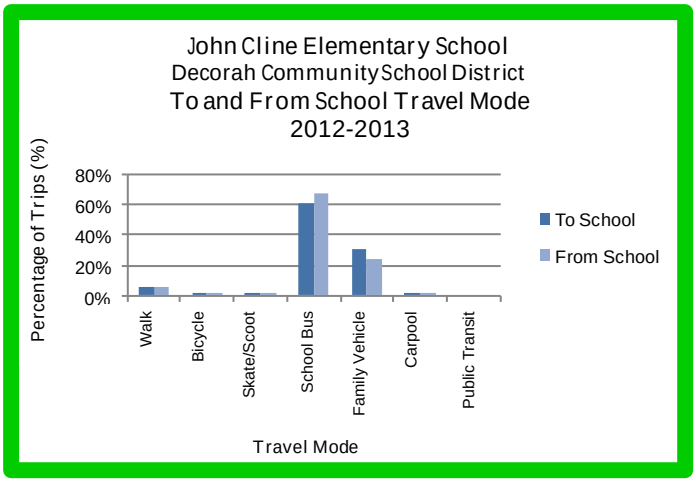
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

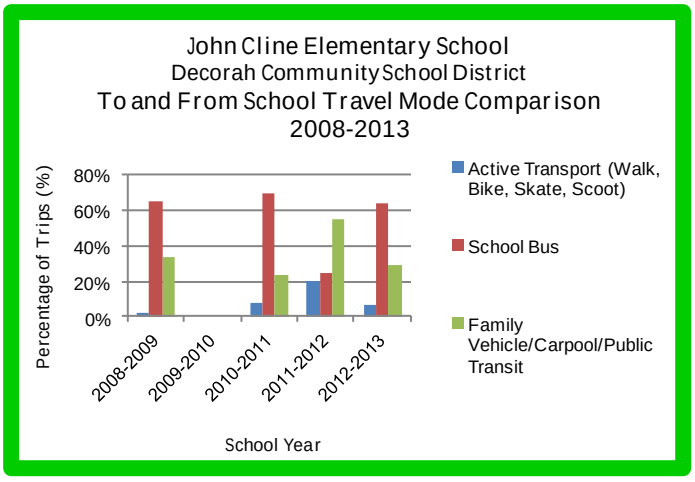
- 5 Walking School Buses
- Mileage Club at Carrie Lee Elementary School
- International Walk to School Day
- Walked to celebrate National Bike to School Day
- 4th grade activity monitors

Decorah Community School District students during the school's annual International Walk to School Day celebration.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support and build current Walking School Buses
- Start more Walking School Buses in new neighborhoods
- Support current SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day





Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services. (2013a). 2012-2013 Iowa Public School PreK-12 Enrollment by District Grade, Race and Gender [Data File]. Retrieved from http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=391&Itemid=4303.

Decorah Community School District — Winneshiek County

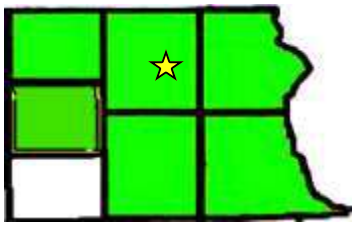
Decorah Middle School — *Grades 5-8*

Decorah, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 1763 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 1042

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Single Town



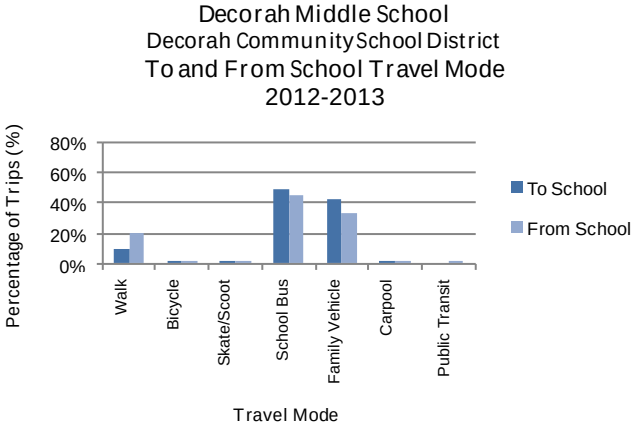
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

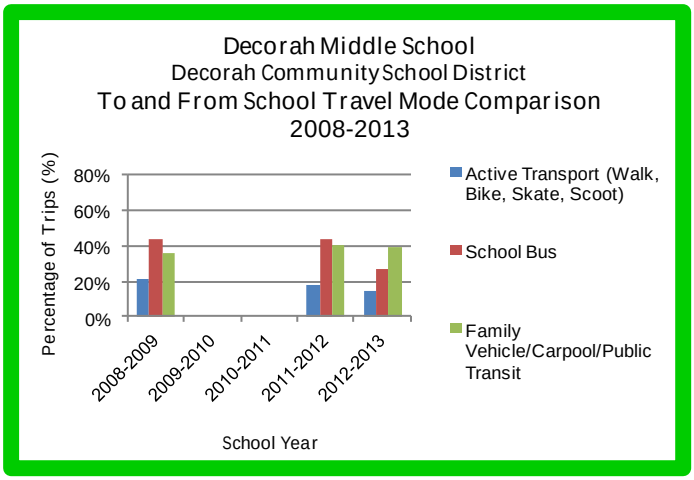
- 5 Walking School Buses
- Mileage Club at Carrie Lee Elementary School
- International Walk to School Day
- Walked to celebrate National Bike to School Day
- 4th grade activity monitors

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support and build current Walking School Buses
- Start more Walking School Buses in new neighborhoods
- Support current SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day

Decorah Community School District students actively engaged in a lesson.





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North Winneshiek Community School District *Winneshiek County*

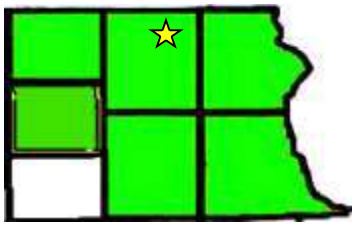
North Winneshiek Elementary/Middle School *Grades PK-8*

Decorah, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 173 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 141

School Profile: Isolated Single K-12 Building



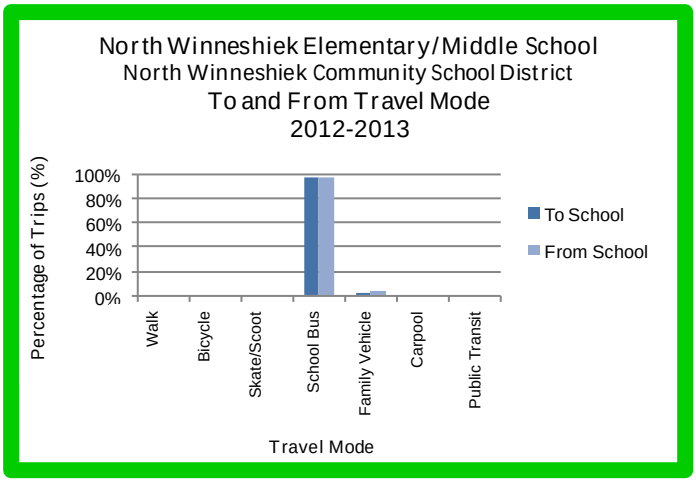
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

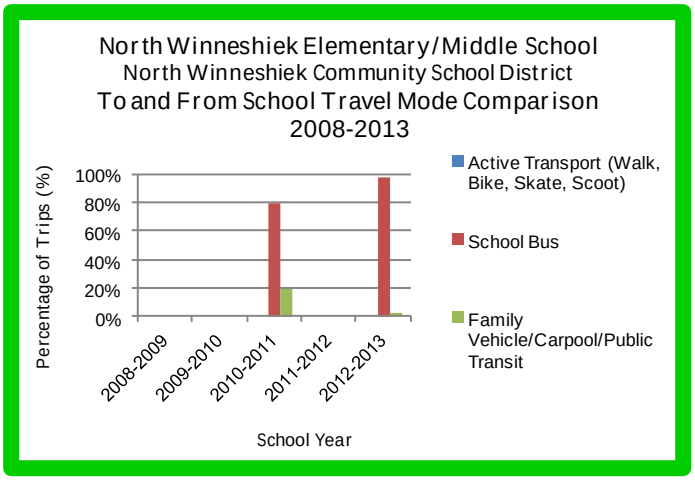
- Bike Rodeo for 2nd graders
- Mileage Club
- International Walk to School Day
- 4th grade activity monitors
- Fall Fitness Day
- School-wide Field Day
- Spring Fitness Day
- Active field trips: downhill skiing, bike trail ride, fishing

North Winneshiek Community School District 2nd graders learn hand signals during the Bike Rodeo.

Future SRTS Plans:

- Support current SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day
- Support current Mileage Club
- Assist with Bike Rodeo





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South Winneshiek Community School District *Winneshiek County*

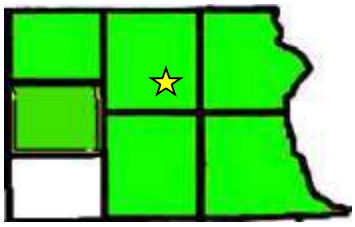
South Winneshiek Elementary School *Grades PK-5*

Ossian, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 596 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 283

School Profile: Multiple Buildings in Multiple Towns



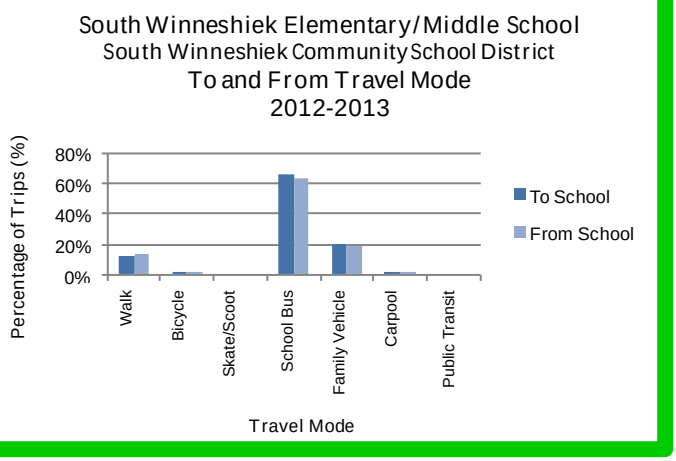
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

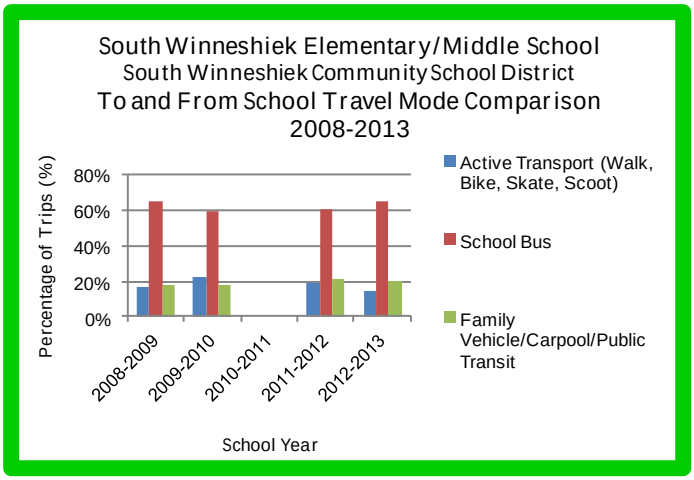
- Mileage Club
- International Walk to School Day
- National Bike to School Day
- Spring Fun Run for high school

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Support current SRTS events such as International Walk to School Day
- Re-engage school's Mileage Club

South Winneshiek Community School District students celebrate International Walk to School Day.





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Turkey Valley Community School District — Winneshiek County

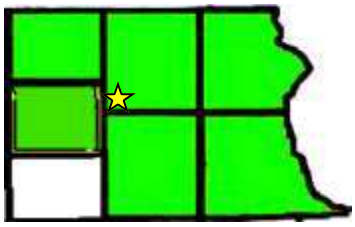
Turkey Valley Elementary School — *Grades PK-6*

Jackson Junction, Iowa

Total District Enrollment: 411 (Iowa Department of Education, 2013a)

K-8 Enrollment: 213

School Profile: Isolated Single K-12 Building



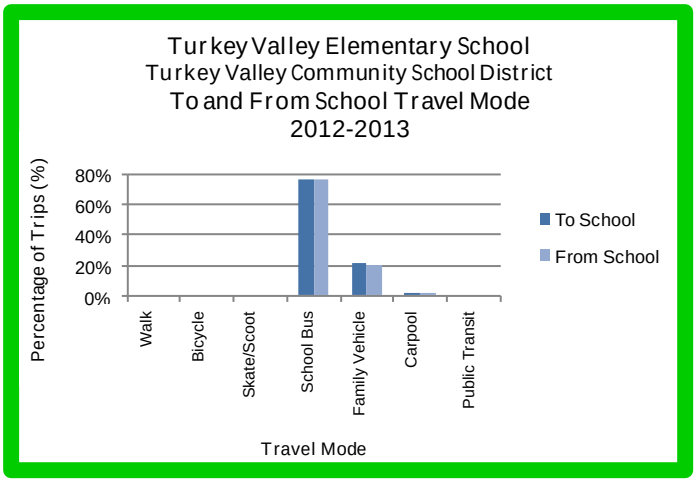
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)/Active Living Activities and Events:

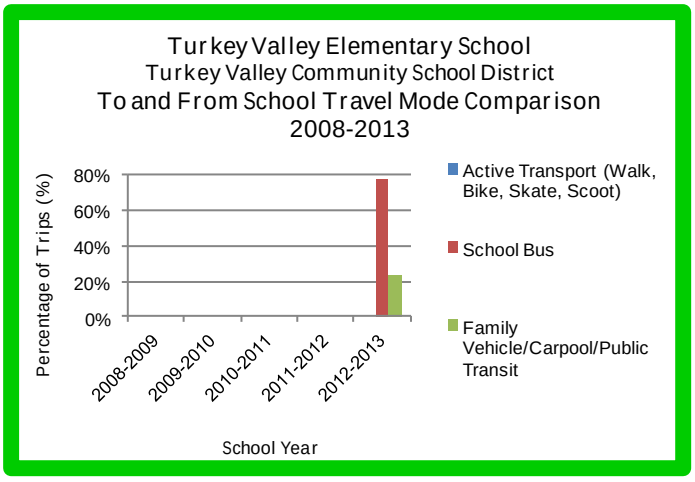
- Live Healthy Iowa Go the Distance Day
- Christmas break activity logs
- Off-campus Wellness Day for junior high and high school students
- Fitness center on campus

Future SRTS Plans:

- Build relationships with school and community representatives
- Host a Bike Rodeo
- Start a Mileage Club

Turkey Valley Community School District students participate in a exercise class during their Wellness Day.





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For more information, please contact **Ashley Christensen**, Regional Safe Routes to School Liaison for Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission:

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