

Orchard Mesa Middle School Walking and Biking Audit



September 21, 2016

Orchard Mesa Middle School Audit for Walking and Biking

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Audit Team Members:

Jennifer Fox-Colwell, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County

Callie Fronczak, Safe Routes to School, Mesa County

Cody Martin, Transportation Engineering Assistant, City of Grand Junction

Brandy Stamatakis, Orchard Mesa Staff

Cheryl Vanna, Orchard Mesa Principal

The Orchard Mesa Middle School Walk Audit was conducted after school on typical day with dismissal at 2:41 pm. Personnel were stationed in the following locations for observation:

- Student drop-off/pick-up area
- Sidewalks and bike routes near school
- Bus Loading Zone
- West side of school
- Along Unaweep/C Rd.

Orchard Mesa Middle School has about 502 students, 60.2% of whom qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch. On this day, there were a total of 210 bike rack spots separated into two different bike racks (one in the front of the building and the other on the east side of the building). Of the 210 bicycle parking places available, 26 bikes occupied the bike cage in the front of the school and one bike occupied the east bike rack. There was no helmets being used on this particular day.

Principal Cheryl Vanna's administration survey indicated the school does have five staff members on duty before and after school each day, while four out of the five members watch routes to and from school. Principal Vanna mentioned that the drop-off/pick-up zone on the west side of the school is hardly used due to parents not wanted to be trapped by the bus parked diagonally to keep vehicles from driving around buses.

Observations/comments:

The following observations and comments regarding the school arrival and departure were made by members of the audit team and the school principal.

Drop-off/Pick-up Area:

- No sidewalks along west side of school driveway that leads from Unaweep to west side of school (Figure 1).

Parking Lot:

- Parents use north side of school's parking lot which is for Eagle Rim Park – students/bikers riding around and students/parents are not paying attention.

Bus Zone:



Figure 2: Bus Loading Zone looking west, sidewalk in good condition.



Figure 1: Orchard Mesa Middle School students walking into oncoming traffic, no sidewalks along west side of school driveway.

- Sidewalk on the north side of school where kids line up to get onto buses does not connect to other sidewalk systems (Figures 2 and 3).
 - Kids are riding bikes on left side of buses while some cars are driving on left side of buses if the last bus is not blocking traffic (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Bus Loading Zone looking east, no sidewalk connecting to external sidewalk system.



Figure 3 : Last bus parks diagonally to keep vehicles from passing during bus loading.

Walkers/Bikers:

- No bike lanes on 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ Road, and 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ Road.
- No crosswalk at bus exit onto 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ Road.
- No sidewalk on 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ Road or 27 $\frac{1}{4}$ Road.
- No helmets.
- No crossing guards.

Intersection and Traffic Control

- No crosswalk at bus exit onto 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ Road.
- Cars parked in No Park Zone on 27 $\frac{3}{8}$ Rd, N. Laguna east side, S. Laguna west and east side.

Suggested Solutions:

Location of Interest	Obstacle	Proposed Solutions	Responsible Parties
General	Information sharing of available resources (Safe Routes to school maps and WebApp); promotional ideas about getting kids to walk and bike to school.	Link on school website with pertinent information including SRTS maps.	RMES administration, SRTS personnel, parent involvement groups, school safety teams.
General	Inadequate signs and vests for crossing guards and staff who help pedestrians and cyclists safely cross lanes of traffic.	Crossing guards need Class A, Level 2 vests and bigger signs	SRO; District 51 Administration
General	Parking and traffic make it dangerous to walk or bike to school.	Traffic calming and parking enforcement.	SRO; Law enforcement
General	Sidewalk internal External - public streets	Develop a connected sidewalk system.	SD 51; City of Grand Junction

Best Practices:

- “Children Breathing - No Idle Zone” = Engines off sign (e.g. West MS photos)
- Pick-up/Drop-off areas by grade (e.g. Bookcliff MS, Pear Park ES). This may create a safer situation for walkers and bikers.
- Crossing guard gathers kids by school for crossing busy street (e.g. Mesa View ES)
- Crossing guards have standard stop signs, and Class A, Level 2 vests.
- Crossing guards are well trained -- on site training available (e.g. Chipeta report for more on this). Crossing guards need to be paid to take the training.
- Take the time to teach parents how to go through pick-up/drop-off process correctly. (e.g. Bookcliff MS)
- Teach kids to wear helmets.
- Having staff and faculty outside the building at the beginning and the end of day. (e.g. West MS, Rocky Mountain ES)
- Clear and predictable flow of traffic through parking lots. (e.g. Bookcliff MS)
- The Health Assistant and PE teachers are active in promoting healthy transportation to and from school. (e.g. Mesa View ES)
- Hosting a bike rodeo and teaching the bike safety and skills unit in PE.
- Crossing guards shouldn't be teachers or other staff who can't get to their stations in time. (e.g. Tope ES, where the PTO pays crossing guards, and “specials” teachers also have duty)

Walk Route Maps

Orchard Mesa Middle School Walk Route Map Summary

	1-Mile Radius ~ 276 street crossings		2-Mile Radius ~597 street crossings		3-Mile Radius ~437 street crossings	
	Length	Percent	Length	Percent	Length	Percent
Least Favored - 4	6.0	12%	21.2	19%	31.1	21%
Not Favored - 3	25.7	53%	42.8	38%	56.8	38%
Favored – 2	12.7	26%	38.4	34%	48.7	33%
Most Favored - 1	3.8	8%	9.1	8%	11.2	8%
	48.2	100%	111.5	100%	147.8	100%

Key to Walk Route Map Ratings:



GREEN

Most favored route. May have a detached sidewalk and/or a bike lane. May be a path that has no vehicle traffic. (A detached sidewalk is separated from the roadway, often by a strip of grass, dirt or rocks.)



BLUE

Has attached sidewalks that are wide enough for 2 people to walk side by side. (An attached sidewalk is right next to the roadway).



YELLOW

Has a place to walk or ride that may be a sidewalk, but could be a path or simply sufficient unpaved space on the side of the road.



RED

Least favored route. Pedestrians and bicyclists must use the vehicle lanes to walk or ride. (No sidewalk and little or no space beyond the white edge line on the side of the road.)

SRTS 2016 - OM Middle

Path Ratings within 1 & 2 Mile Radii

Legend

Most favored

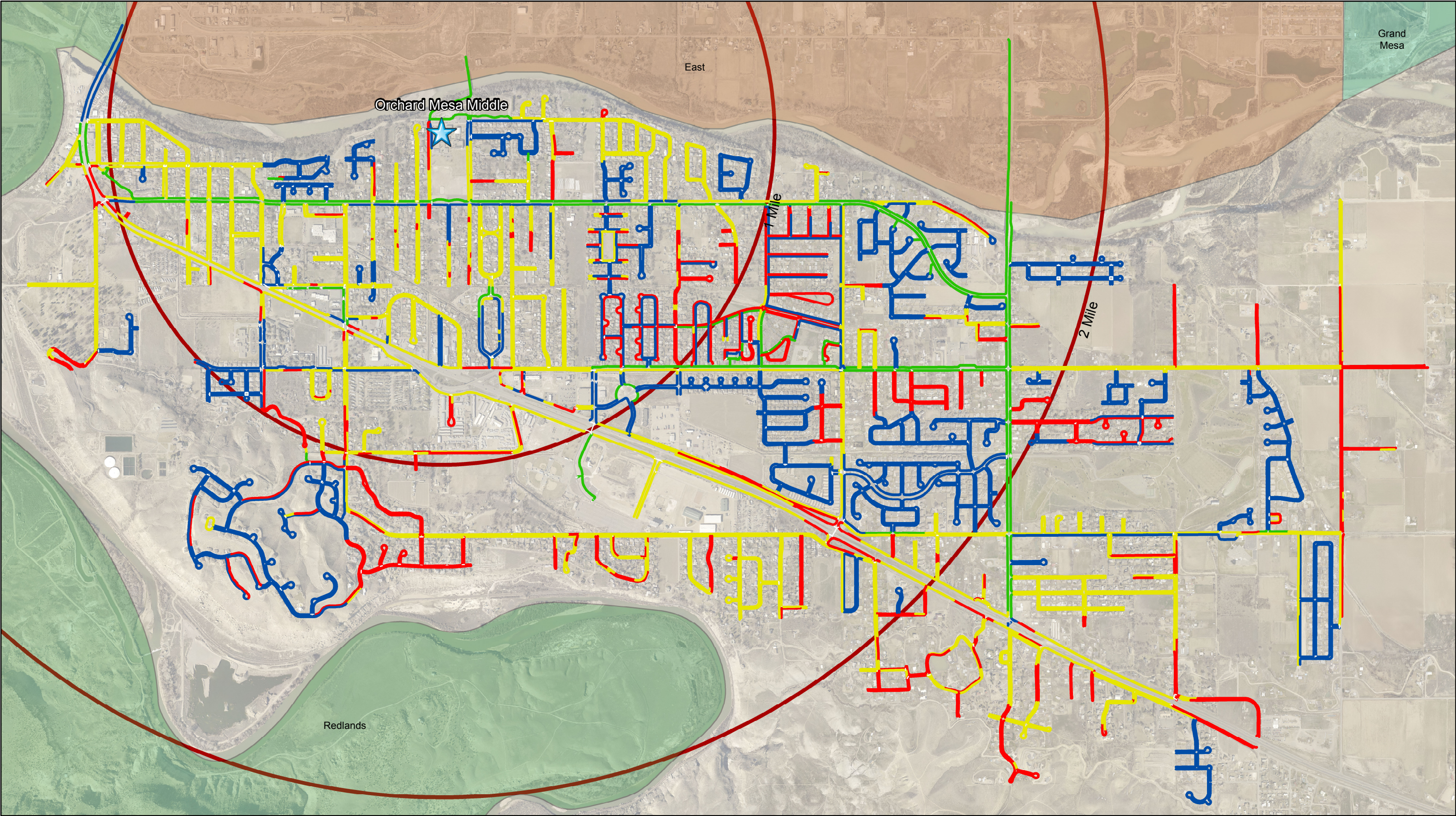
Favored

Not favored

Least favored

Crosswalk

1 & 2 Mile Radii



Parent Surveys

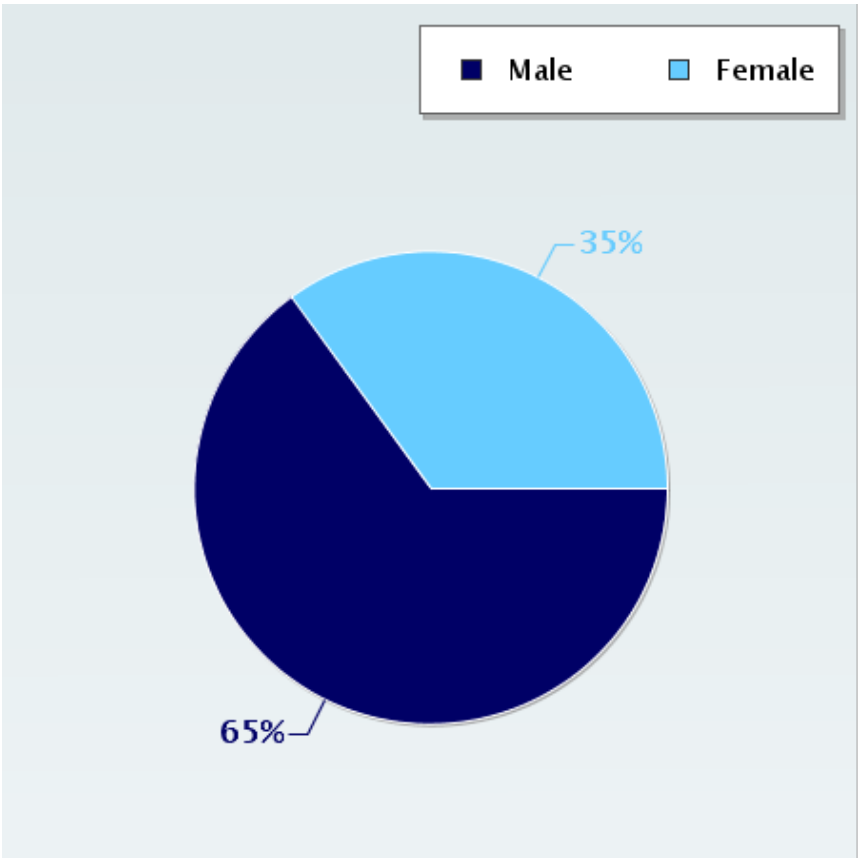
Parent Survey Report: One School in One Data Collection Period

School Name: Orchard Mesa Middle School
School Group: Mesa County Valley School District 51
School Enrollment: 0
% Range of Students Involved in SRTS: Don't Know
Number of Questionnaires Distributed: 0

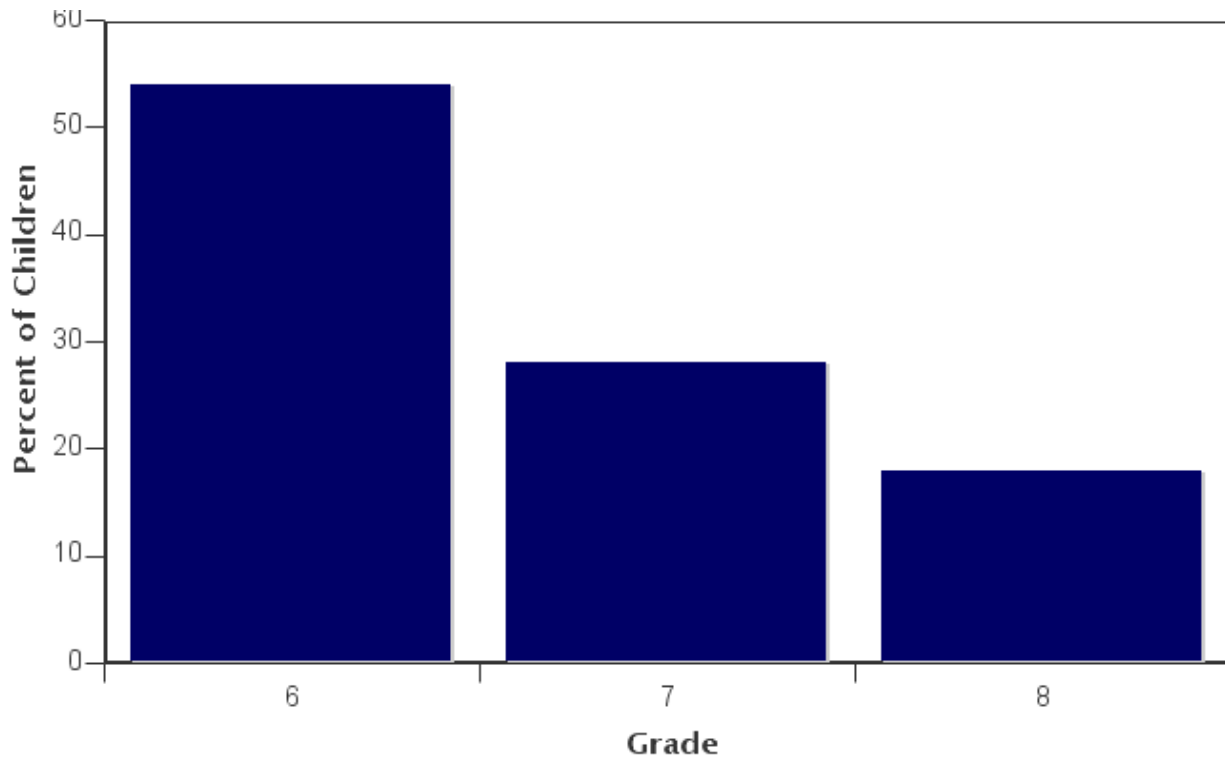
Set ID: 15796
Month and Year Collected: October 2016
Date Report Generated: 12/30/2016
Tags:
Number of Questionnaires Analyzed for Report: 39

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



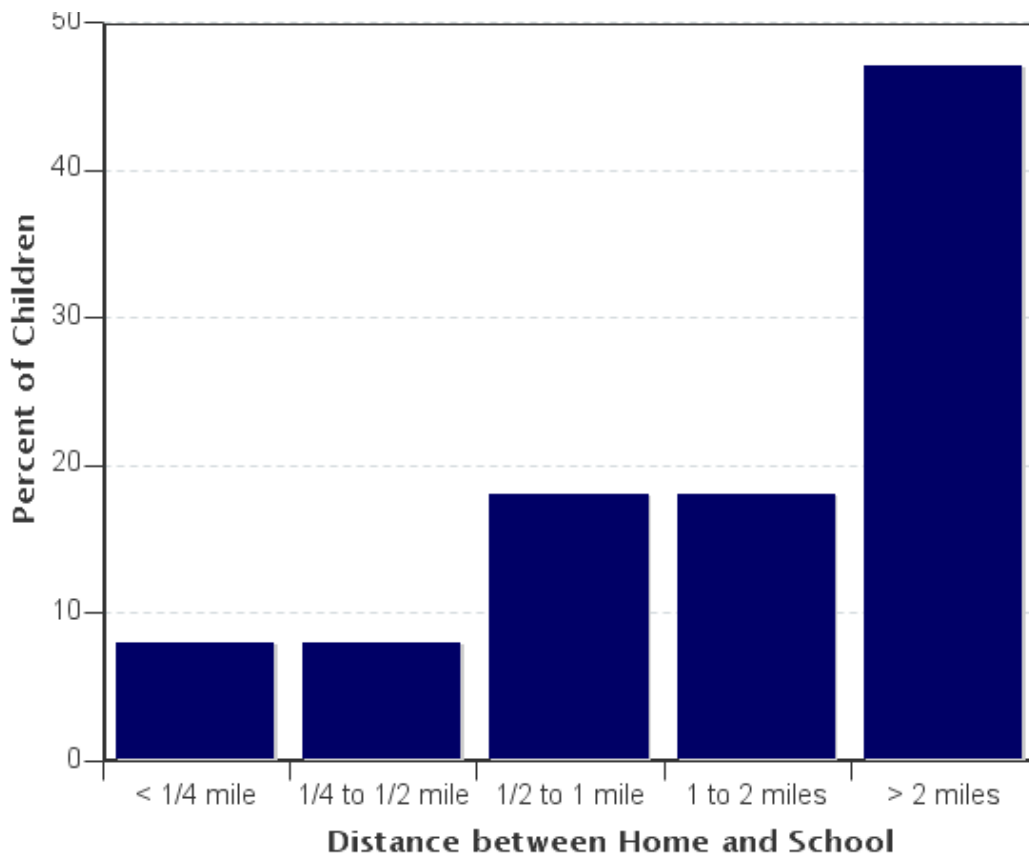
Grade levels of children represented in survey

Grade in School	Responses per grade	
	Number	Percent
6	21	54%
7	11	28%
8	7	18%

No response: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school



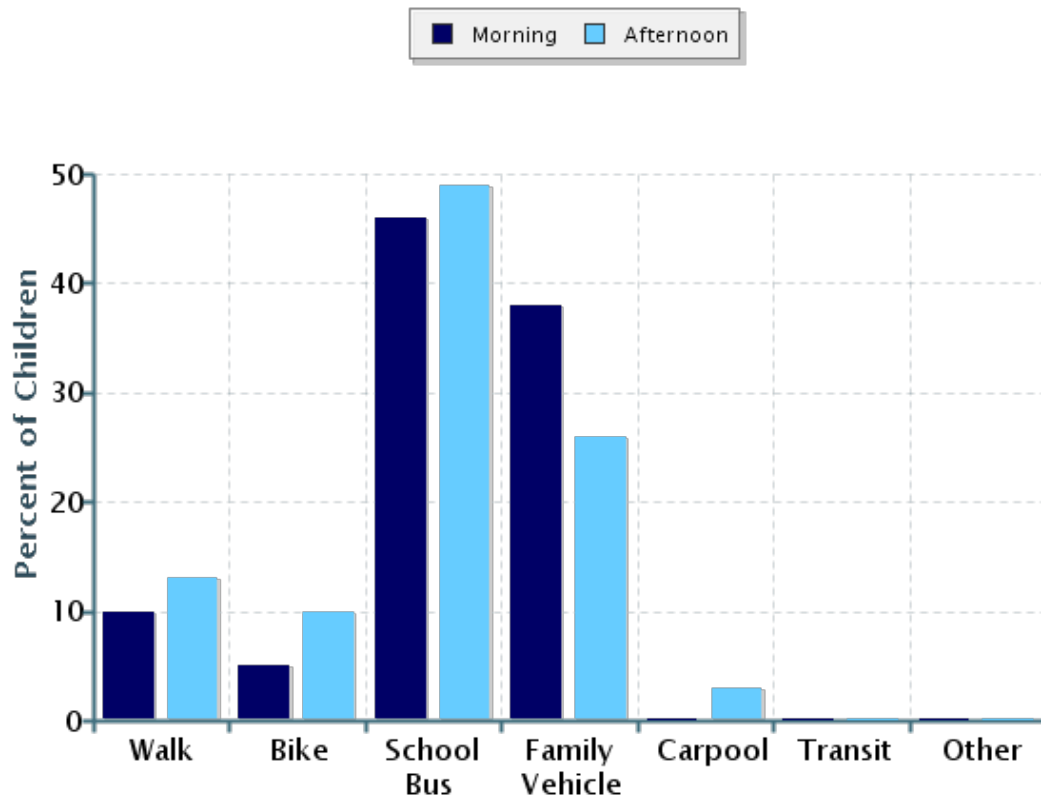
Parent estimate of distance from child's home to school

Distance between home and school	Number of children	Percent
Less than 1/4 mile	3	8%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	8%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	7	18%
1 mile up to 2 miles	7	18%
More than 2 miles	18	47%

Don't know or No response: 1

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	39	10%	5%	46%	38%	0%	0%	0%
Afternoon	39	13%	10%	49%	26%	3%	0%	0%

No Response Morning: 0

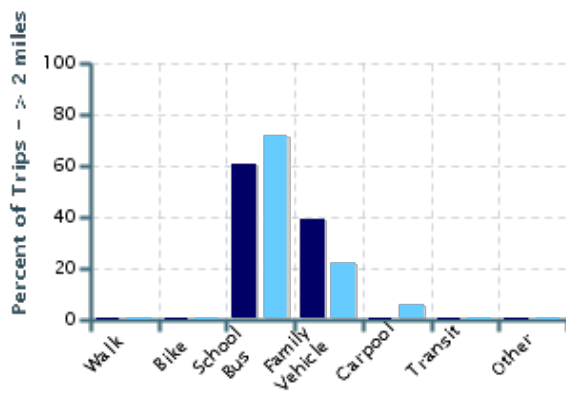
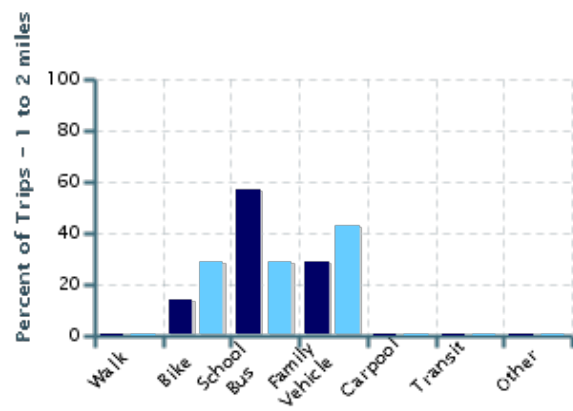
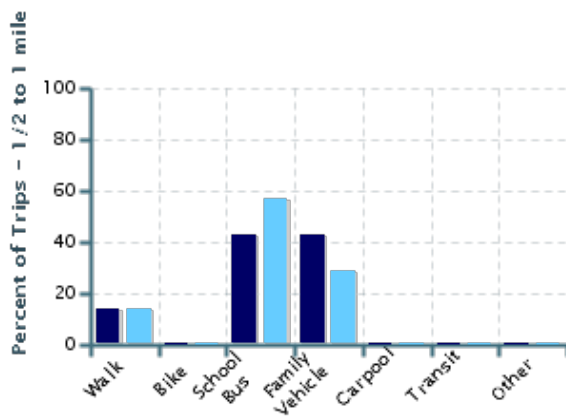
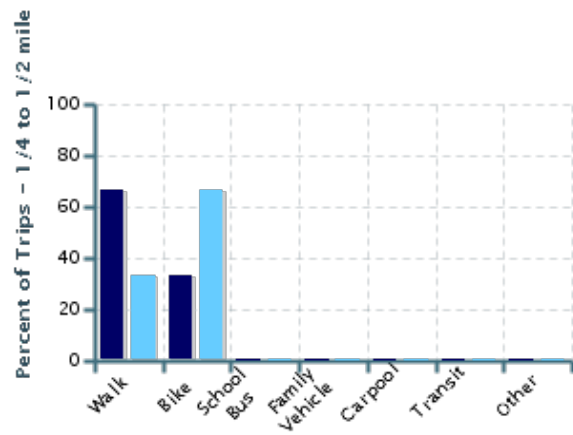
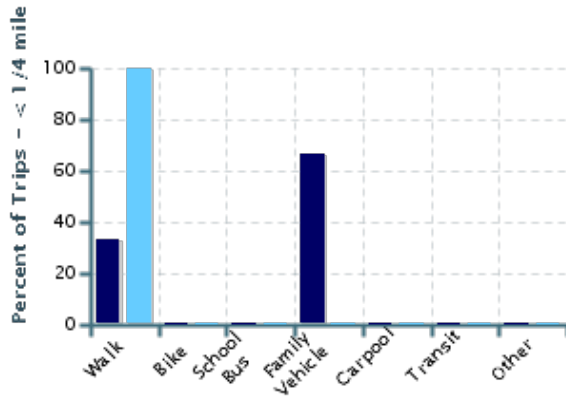
No Response Afternoon: 0

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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

■ Morning

■ Afternoon



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	3	33%	0%	0%	67%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	7	14%	0%	43%	43%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	7	0%	14%	57%	29%	0%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	18	0%	0%	61%	39%	0%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 1

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

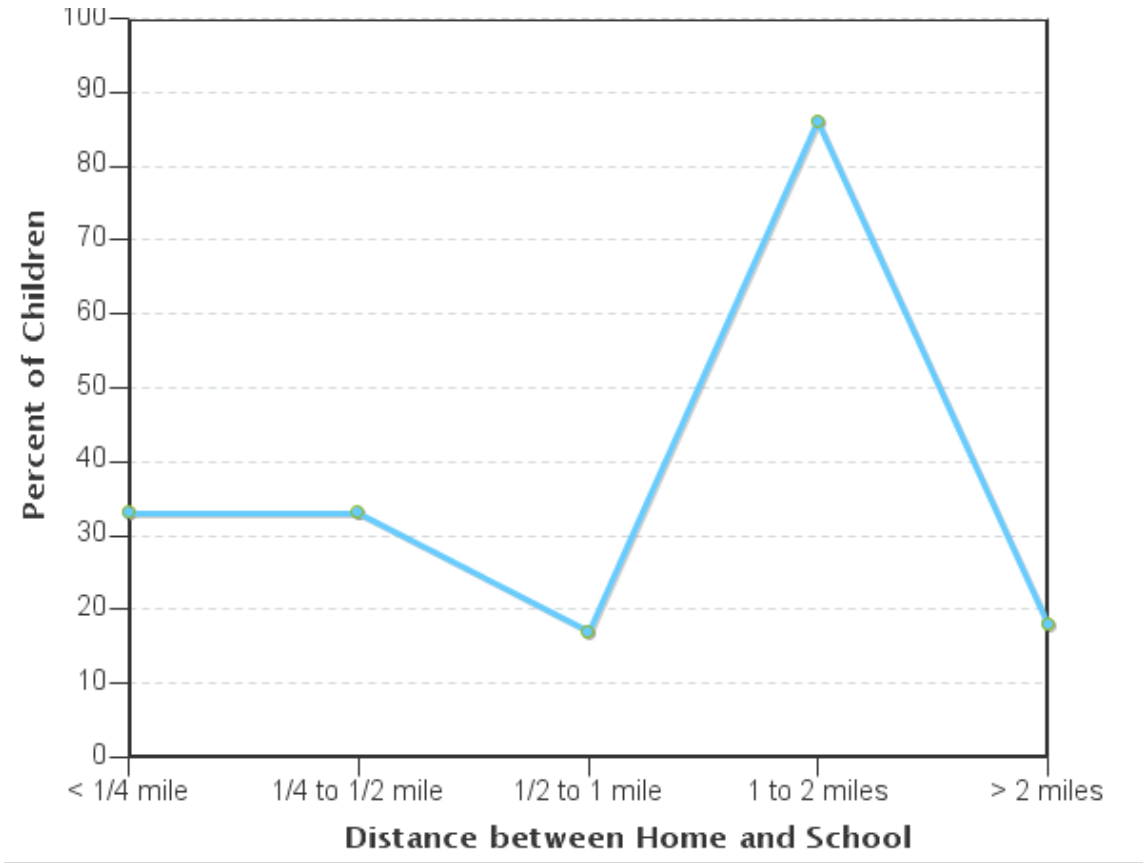
School Departure

Distance	Number within Distance	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Transit	Other
Less than 1/4 mile	3	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	3	33%	67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1/2 mile up to 1 mile	7	14%	0%	57%	29%	0%	0%	0%
1 mile up to 2 miles	7	0%	29%	29%	43%	0%	0%	0%
More than 2 miles	18	0%	0%	72%	22%	6%	0%	0%

Don't know or No response: 1

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

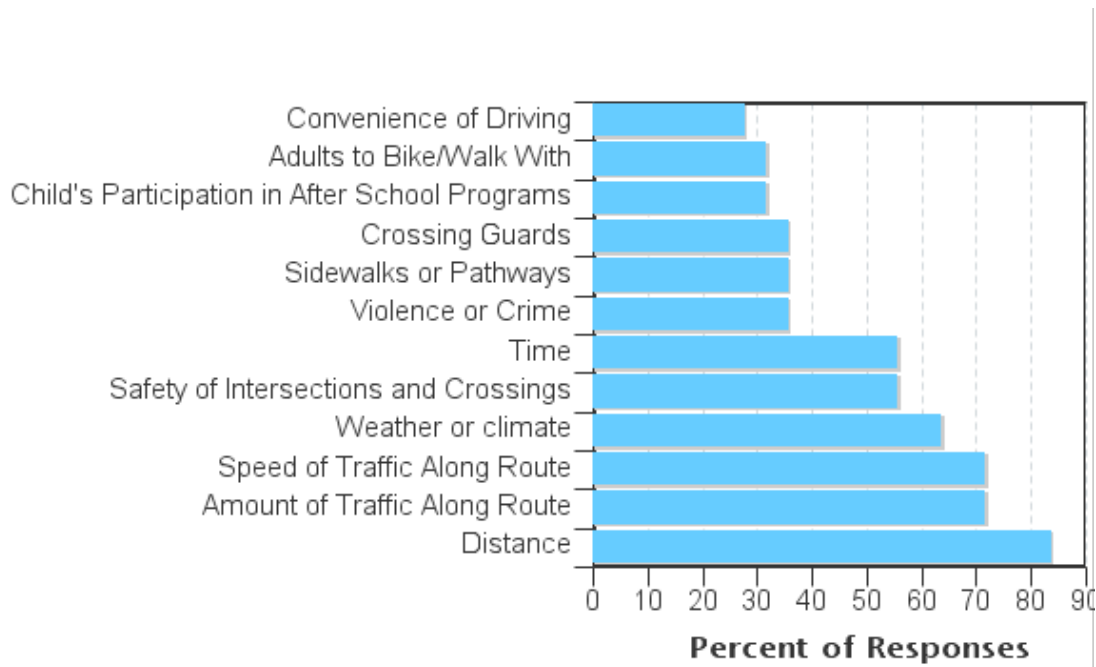


Percent of children who have asked for permission to walk or bike to/from school by distance they live from school

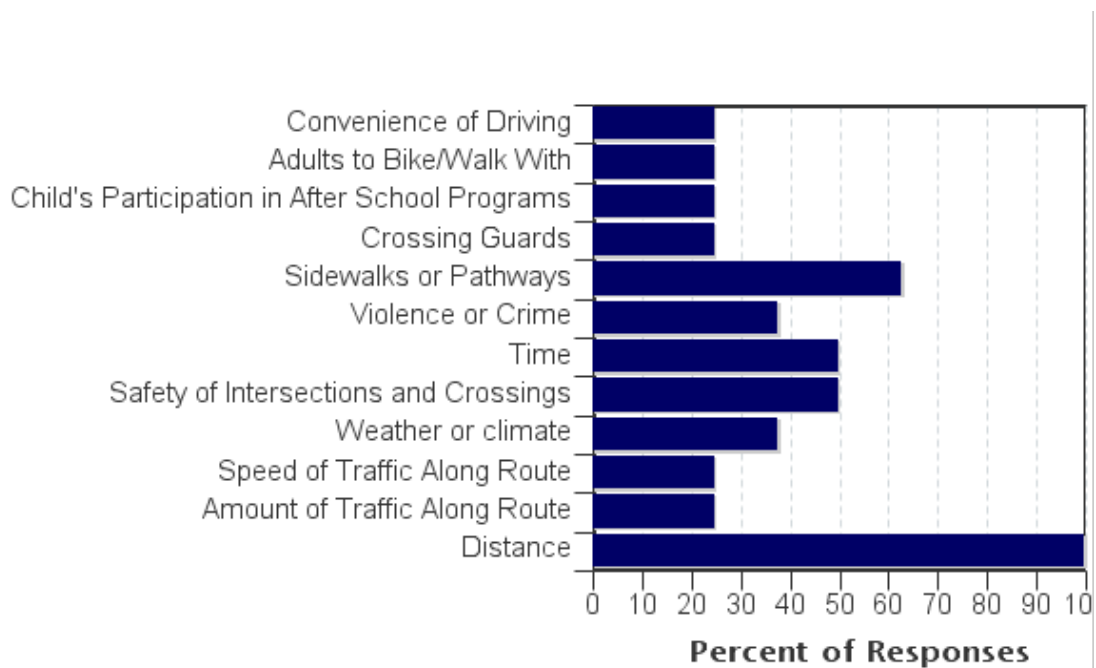
Asked Permission?	Number of Children	Less than 1/4 mile	1/4 mile up to 1/2 mile	1/2 mile up to 1 mile	1 mile up to 2 miles	More than 2 miles
Yes	12	33%	33%	17%	86%	18%
No	24	67%	67%	83%	14%	82%

Don't know or No response: 3
 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	84%	100%
Amount of Traffic Along Route	72%	25%
Speed of Traffic Along Route	72%	25%
Weather or climate	64%	38%
Safety of Intersections and Crossings	56%	50%
Time	56%	50%
Violence or Crime	36%	38%
Sidewalks or Pathways	36%	63%
Crossing Guards	36%	25%
Child's Participation in After School Programs	32%	25%
Adults to Bike/Walk With	32%	25%
Convenience of Driving	28%	25%
Number of Respondents per Category	25	8

No response: 6

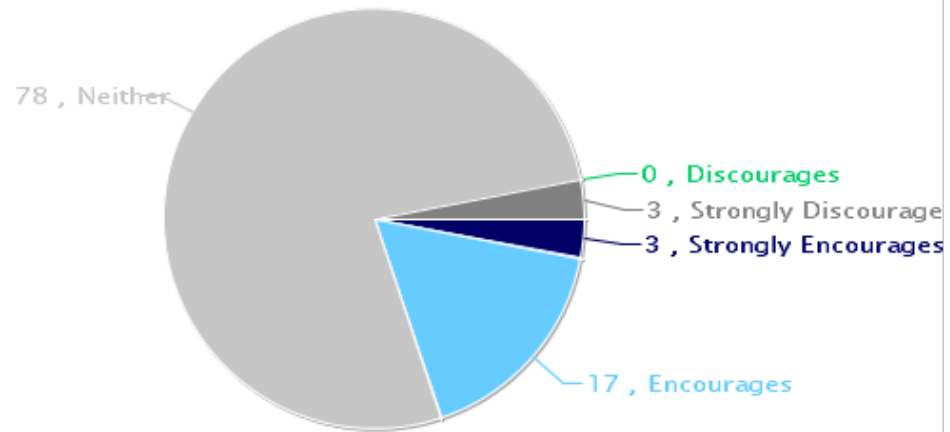
Note:

--Factors are listed from most to least influential for the 'Child does not walk/bike to school' group.

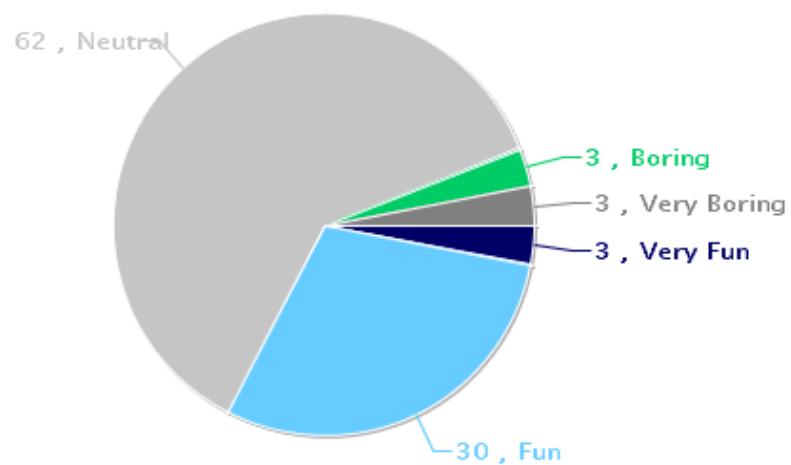
--Each column may sum to > 100% because respondent could select more than issue

--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.

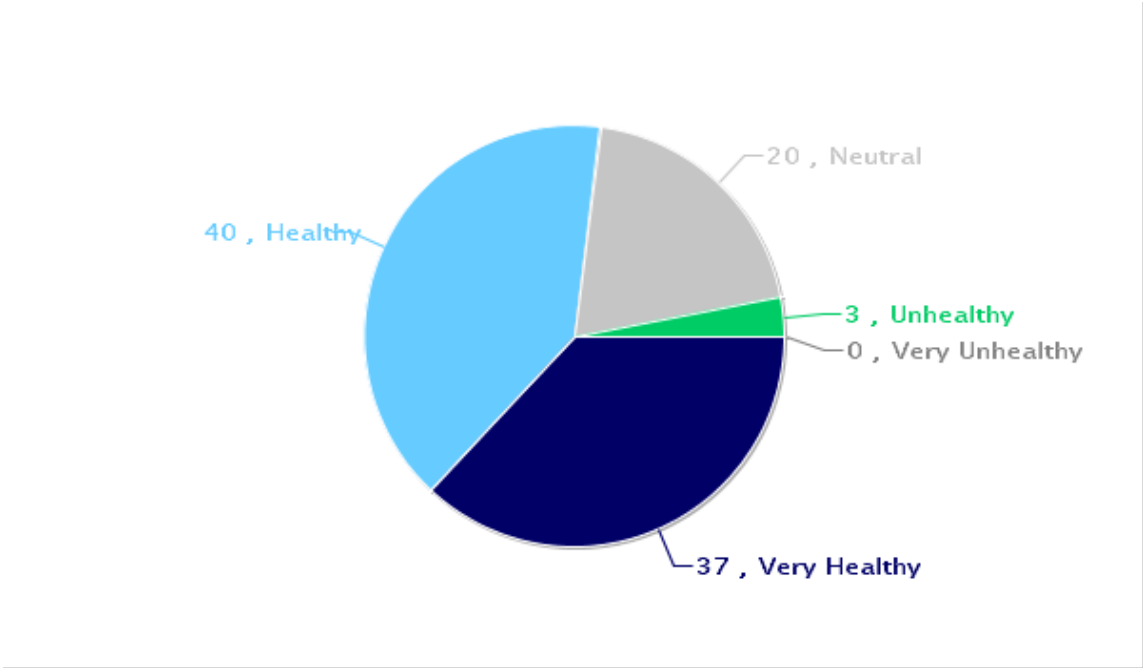
Parents' opinions about how much their child's school encourages or discourages walking and biking to/from school



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
1493707	We live ON the highway it is barely safe for an adult to walk or ride I would not let my 11 year old
1493705	We live across the highway.
1493713	I feel more comfortable knowing my child has friends to walk with. I don't think I'd allow him to walk if he were alone.
1493722	Safety lights, helmet and functioning bike would be always considered.
1493720	Our children lead a very active, healthy lifestyle. The fact that their father and I can pick them up and take them to school is a luxury. They walk sometimes for fun.
1493731	I filled this survey out while my mother was cooking dinner for the fam.