

# Safe Routes to School Racial Equity Analysis

## RACIAL EQUITY VISION

Our vision is for Seattle school children to start their day experiencing the benefits of walking and biking to school, including:

- Having fun
- Feeling safe
- Strengthening connections to their communities
- Arriving to school in time for breakfast and ready to learn
- Improved physical and mental health

To support Seattle's effort to end institutionalized racism and build a more equitable city, we are focused on students in these groups: communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, the LGBTQ community, and girls.

## RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS PROCESS

Over the next year, our racial equity analysis will:



### Fall 2017

Analyze data on how we have served communities in the past



### Winter 2018

Involve people impacted by our program through conversations and surveys

We are partnering with the following schools based on their students' racial, ethnic, and language diversity:

- Aki Kurose Middle School
- Bailey Gatzert Elementary
- Concord Elementary
- Dearborn Park Elementary
- Dunlap Elementary
- Rainier Beach High School
- West Seattle Elementary
- Wing Luke Elementary



### Spring 2018

Develop new strategies and partnerships to reach our racial equity vision. Identify evaluation metrics to measure our progress toward this vision



### Summer 2018

Report back to communities



We are committed to working with communities to better understand how we can improve the Safe Routes to School program to serve Seattle's students of color in the best ways possible.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Be on the lookout for our survey in the mail, online, and at schools and community organizations across Seattle.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school)

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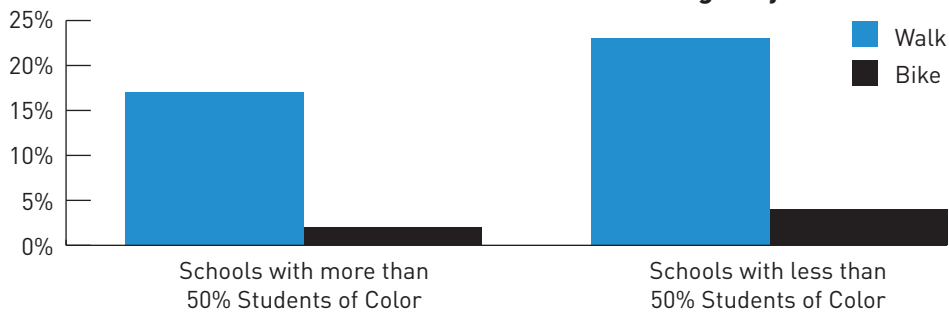
**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

## WHY DOES THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS MATTER?

Student walk and bike rates have sharply declined while youth obesity has almost quadrupled in the last four decades; this has disproportionately affected communities of color.

- Black and Latino children have higher obesity rates and tend to have the least access to parks, playgrounds, or walkable streets
- Nearly ¼ of Black youth are getting less than the recommended hour of daily physical activity, compared to 13% of White youth
- In Seattle, schools with high percentages of students of color have lower walking and biking rates than schools with less than 50% students of color

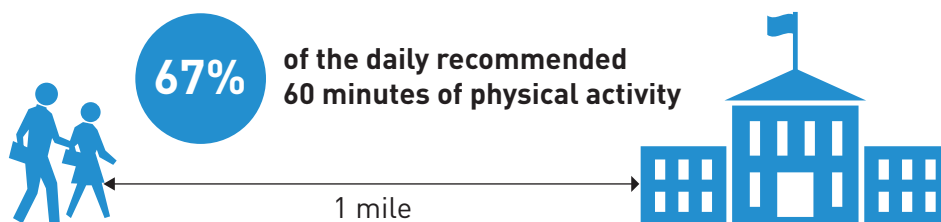
2015 Seattle Student Bike and Walk Percentages by Race



Active commuting to school has lasting health benefits and can decrease the risk for youth obesity which is linked to:

- cardiovascular disease
- diabetes
- cancer
- stroke

Increased physical activity can also lead to improved mental and physical health and academic achievement.



## THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Seattle Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program works to make it easier and safer for students to walk and bike to school. We use a combination of strategies:

- **Education** – ensuring that everyone learns how to travel safely
- **Encouragement** – promoting walking and biking in the school community
- **Engineering** – building projects like new sidewalks, safer crosswalks, and improved streets for biking
- **Enforcement** – partnering with the Seattle Police Department to enforce traffic safety laws
- **Evaluation** – tracking progress toward our shared safety goals
- **Empowerment** – providing resources to school champions

To achieve our vision, we need to understand the disparities in walk and bike rates among Seattle's students, and work with the community toward solutions.



Seattle's Safe Routes to School program is taking an equity-driven approach to promote more active commuting among students because all children have the right to health, happiness, and academic success, regardless of race.