

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.

PROGRESS UPDATES

In 2018 the Safe Routes to School Team:

- Created a Safe Routes to [School Racial Equity Survey](#) that addresses the barriers that students of color face when walking and biking to school. The survey is in 9 languages, and can be found online, in your mailboxes, and at community pop-up events
- Partnered with [10 schools serving at least 85% students of color](#) to promote the Racial Equity Survey and to conduct in-depth conversations with students and families about the lived experiences and challenges of getting to and from school
- Attended [over 50 community events](#) catered specifically for communities of color, immigrants, and refugees
- Partnered with nearly [40 community organizations](#) to promote the Racial Equity Survey, and conducted focused outreach such as [focus groups and coffee chats](#) at over 10 community organizations
- Received nearly [250 survey responses](#) from guardians and high school students in the 2017-2018 school year
- Refined our survey outreach practices to make survey participation is more accessible and equitable for the second round of surveying in the fall of 2018



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!

How can we make it easier for your kids to walk and bike to school? We are reopening the **racial equity survey** in September of 2018.

Survey link: www.seattle.gov/transportation/srts-rea

INFORMATION & CONTACTS

www.seattle.gov/transportation/srts-rea

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Seattle
Department of
Transportation

RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS PROCESS

Over the next year, our racial equity analysis will:



Complete

Analyze data on how we have served communities in the past



2018

Involve people impacted by our program through conversations and surveys

In addition to nearly 40 community organizations, we are partnering with the following schools based on their students' racial 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



Winter 2019

Partner with communities of color to develop new strategies to reach our racial equity vision. Identify evaluation metrics to measure our progress toward this vision.



Spring 2019

Report back to communities

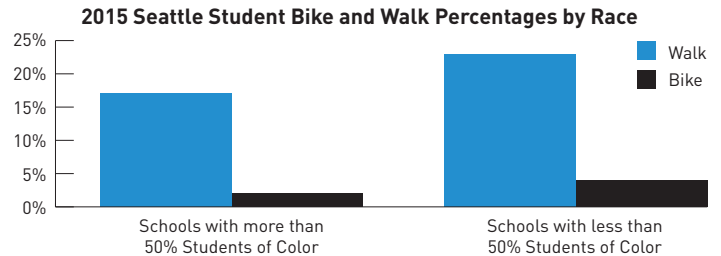
WHY DOES THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL RACIAL EQUITY ANALYSIS MATTER?

This work directly addresses attendance rates for students of color because many of Seattle's students do not have access to school buses. Actively commuting to school is also linked to greater academic success, and improved physical and mental health.

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 1/4 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

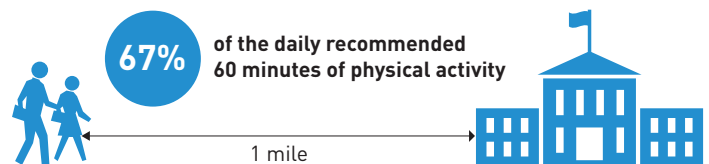
To achieve our vision, we need to understand the disparities in walk and bike rates among Seattle's students, and work with the community toward solutions.



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.



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.