

Petition: We Demand Safe Routes to School and Safer School Zones in [Your Community Name]

Note to petitioner:

This template can be used or modified in any way you need. Be sure to address the petition to the appropriate decision-making body/ies in your community. If there are separate decision-makers for separate requests, include this information in the body of your petition.

The sections in this template reflect Common Duty's recommended petition structure based on our [Step-By-Step Guide to Writing a Petition](#). Remember to **delete anything highlighted in magenta** and **replace the text in yellow with community-specific information**.

If you need assistance, reach out to us at ourcommonduty@gmail.com and we will help in any way we can!

1. Enticing Intro:

In [Community Name], we believe every child deserves to travel to school safely, whether walking, biking, or rolling. Imagine a community where parents feel confident their children can navigate their way to school without the fear of traffic accidents or unsafe conditions. Our streets should be safe for all children, fostering independence, healthy habits, and a sense of community. It's time to take action and ensure that Safe Routes to School become a reality for our families.

2. Statement of Goals:

We, the undersigned, call on [Local Government/School Board/Transportation Authorities] to make child safety a priority by:

- Creating and maintaining a Safe Routes to School plan that includes protected bike lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks.
- Leading or supporting programmatic measures including carpooling, ridesharing, bike buses, and walking school buses.
- Improving safety measures in school zones by enforcing lower speed limits, adding crossing guards, and installing traffic-calming infrastructure.
- Increasing visibility through proper signage, street lighting, and other safety features around schools.
- Launching community education campaigns to promote safer driving habits in areas surrounding schools.
- Ensuring that Safe Routes to School programs are equitable and accessible to all students, regardless of their neighborhood.

3. Supporting Information:

Safe Routes to School programs create safer streets for all users and alleviate the stress on parents who feel compelled to drive their kids due to dangerous streets. Children who walk or bike to school tend to be

more physically active, leading to better health and educational outcomes, and encouraging lifelong healthy habits. In addition, safe school zones create less traffic congestion and air pollution around schools, making neighborhoods more livable for everyone.

In [Your Community Name], there have been [XX] incidents involving child pedestrians or cyclists near school zones in the past [XX] years. This is unacceptable. [XX]% of parents currently drive their children to school because they fear for their safety on the streets. This daily routine not only adds to traffic congestion and air pollution but also places an undue burden on families. By making walking and biking to school safe again, we can provide children with more independence and offer parents and guardians a much-needed break from the demands of school transportation.

By improving infrastructure and promoting safer streets, we can drastically reduce these risks and ensure our kids' well-being.

Safe Routes to School programs not only keep children safe but also In communities that have implemented these programs, traffic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up has been reduced, giving parents back valuable time in their mornings and evenings. Studies have shown that [Adjacent or Comparable Community] has seen a [XX]% decrease in traffic accidents involving children after Safe Routes to School programming, and parents report feeling less anxious about their children's safety.

4. Call to Action:

We urge [Local Leaders/Officials/School Board] to take swift action and implement Safe Routes to School infrastructure and programs in [Your Community Name]. By signing this petition, we stand together in advocating for safer streets for our children. Let's work toward creating a future where kids can walk to school safely, and parents can feel at ease knowing their children are protected.

Sign the petition today to demand safe streets for [Your Community Name] children!

5. Brief Summary:

We, the undersigned, request immediate action to prioritize safety in school zones through the implementation of Safe Routes to School infrastructure and programming. By thoughtfully planning and redesigning school zones and school travel to include protected pathways that allow students to walk, bike, or commute together, we can ensure that every child has the freedom to get to school in a safe and enjoyable manner in [Your Community Name]. Let's make our community a safer, healthier place for our kids and families.