



October Walk to School Month

Walk and Roll to School Tally Posters

What is a Tally Poster?

A tally poster is a fun way to track how many students walked, biked, or rolled to school.

Organize volunteers

It's important to have enough volunteer help to make the tally poster project a success. You'll need one volunteer to help make the poster and hang it up, a few volunteers to hand out stickers or paper cut-outs to students, and another volunteer stationed at the tally poster to help students put their stickers or paper cut-outs in the right place on the poster.



One school-wide tally poster with stickers, Alameda County, 2011. Photo courtesy of Transform.

Gather Materials for the Poster

You will need: butcher paper for the wall poster, something to stick or tape onto the butcher paper (stickers or paper cut-outs), thick colored markers, yard stick to make lines, and tape for attaching the poster to the wall.

Make Poster Design

There are a few different kinds of tally posters. One option is to create one school-wide tally poster (see example A on page 2). This kind of tally poster is useful for capturing and tracking all the different modes of transportation that students use to get to school. Another option is to create one tally poster for each grade level with classroom distinction (see example B on page 2). This kind of tally poster only captures the number of students who walk and bike to school and takes more time and resources, but it allows for the different grade levels and classes to engage in friendly competition.

Hang the Tally Poster

If possible, hang up the tally poster(s) a day or two *before* the event. It attracts a lot of attention and acts as a helpful reminder for both students and parents to participate in Walk and Roll to School activities. Pick out a centrally located spot to hang the tally poster(s), preferably visible from the morning greeting table(s) on event days.

Give Out Stickers or Paper Cut-outs to Students

Designate several volunteers to hand out tally poster stickers or paper cut-outs to students on Walk and Roll to School days. If you are using paper cut-outs instead of stickers, volunteers will guide students to write their name on the cut-out, put a piece of tape on the back and direct them to the appropriate tally poster.

Placing Stickers or Paper Cut-outs on the Poster

Designate one volunteer to stand by the tally poster(s) and help students place their stickers or paper cut-outs in the right place on the poster. This volunteer can also help with crowd control as needed.

After the Event

Be sure to tally up the totals on the poster(s) (i.e. walk, bike, school bus etc., or grade levels) and let students and parents know the results. This can be done through morning loudspeaker announcements, through a school newsletter or email, posting on the school marquee, or any other creative method. If space permits, you may wish to keep the tally poster up (in the cafeteria, hallway, etc.) for another few days after your event to remind students of their participation, and as a way to keep making active and healthy transportation choices. Consider headings such as, “Look how many students walked or rolled to school. Great job!” or “Walking and rolling is great for our health and for the environment. How often can you make it a part of your weekly routine?” Keep the numbers handy for the next Walk and Roll to School event, and challenge students to beat their own record.

Example A:

How did you get to school today?	
(drawing) Walk	(stickers)
(drawing) Bike	
(drawing) Skateboard or Scooter	
(drawing) School Bus	
(drawing) Car or Carpool	
(drawing) Other	



One school-wide tally poster with stickers, Alameda County, 2011. Photo courtesy of Transform.

Example B:

Walk to School Day – (grade level)		
Teacher name	Teacher name	Teacher name
(stickers or paper cut-outs with students' names)	(stickers or paper cut-outs with students' names)	(stickers or paper cut-outs with students' names)



One tally poster per grade level with paper cut-outs, Sacramento County, 2010.

