



# New Jersey Safe Routes to School Parent/Caregiver Survey Report

**Prepared For:** Metuchen, New Jersey

**Funded by:** New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

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<http://www.saferoutesnj.org>



**RUTGERS**

Edward J. Bloustein School  
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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

## SUMMARY FOR THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY

### REPORT SURVEY BACKGROUND

- All surveys were taken online
- Total Number of Submitted Surveys: 308
- Analyzed and Returned: July 2014

### PURPOSE OF SURVEY

The goal of this survey is to learn how students travel to and from school and to understand better any issues or concerns parents have with allowing their child to walk or bike to school. The information gathered from this survey will be shared with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and will be used to support local, state and national Safe Routes to School programs. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a nationwide effort to encourage more and safer walking and bicycling to school.

All survey responses have been kept confidential and neither the parent respondent nor their child's name have been associated with the results.

The findings presented are not necessarily representative of the entire school-based population and are intended to be directional in nature. The survey response rate did not produce results that are statistically significant. The intention of the survey is to learn the behavior of students walking and biking to school. While the findings are descriptive, they do not necessarily represent the walking and biking behaviors of the broader population.

For more information about these surveys or this Report, please contact Leigh Ann Von Hagen.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Certain questions allow the respondents to mark more than one response (ex: Q 9). When this is the case, both the number of survey respondents and the number of total responses are reported. The percentages reflect the total number of responses received.

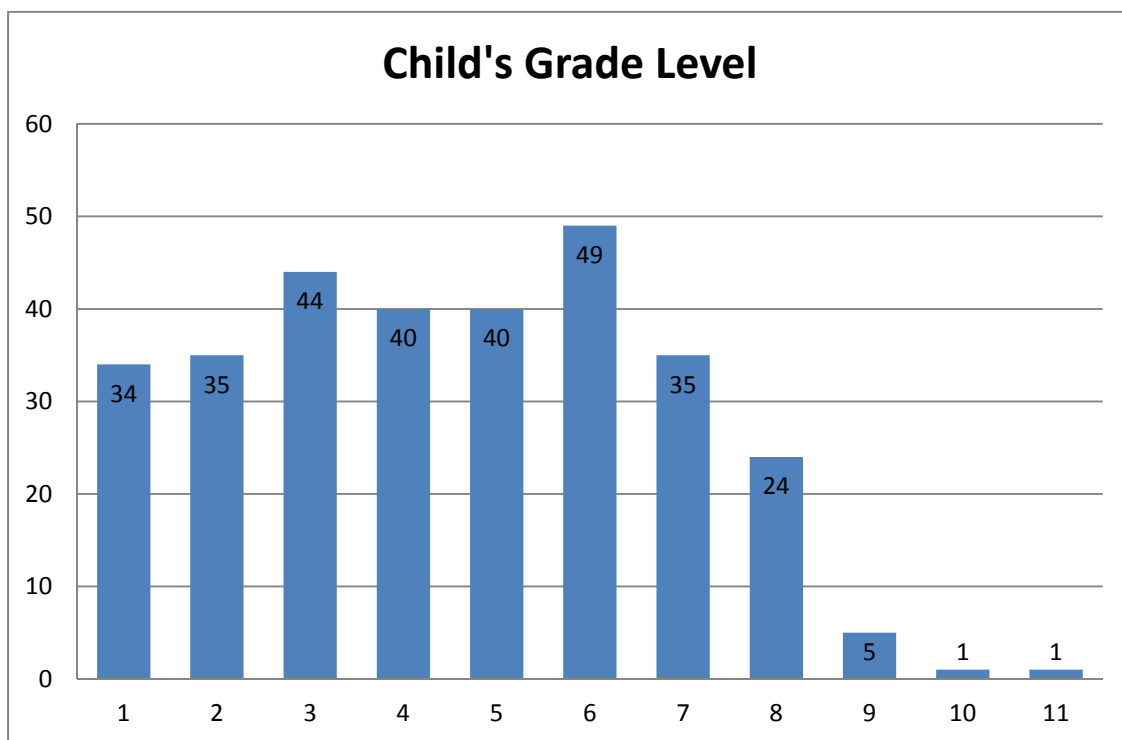
- *The response rate was highest from parents of Campbell Elementary School students. (Q 1)*
- *The response rate was highest from parents of sixth grade students. (Q 2)*
- *A majority of students either take the school bus or a family vehicle to get to and from school. (Q8)*
- *Most children do not walk, but those who do walk do so mostly with their parent or guardian. (Q 9)*
- *The majority of children (83%) have bikes that they could ride to school (Q10)*
- *Speed of traffic and the level of safety at crossings and intersections was a major factor in deciding whether or not children can walk or bike to school. Unsafe crossings or intersections received the highest percentage of responses for which one factor is most important in deciding whether or not children can walk or bike to school. (Q12)*
- *Age of my child and availability of adult supervision were both identified as major factors in deciding whether or not children can walk or bike to school. Age of my child received the highest percentage of responses for which one factor is most important in deciding whether or not children can walk or bike to school. (Q 13)*

## GRAPHICAL SUMMARY

### Question 1: What is the name of your child's school?

What is the name of your child's school?	Number of responses
Campbell Elementary School	150
Edgar Middle School	147
Metuchen High School	7

### Question 2: In what grade is your child currently enrolled?



Responses: 308

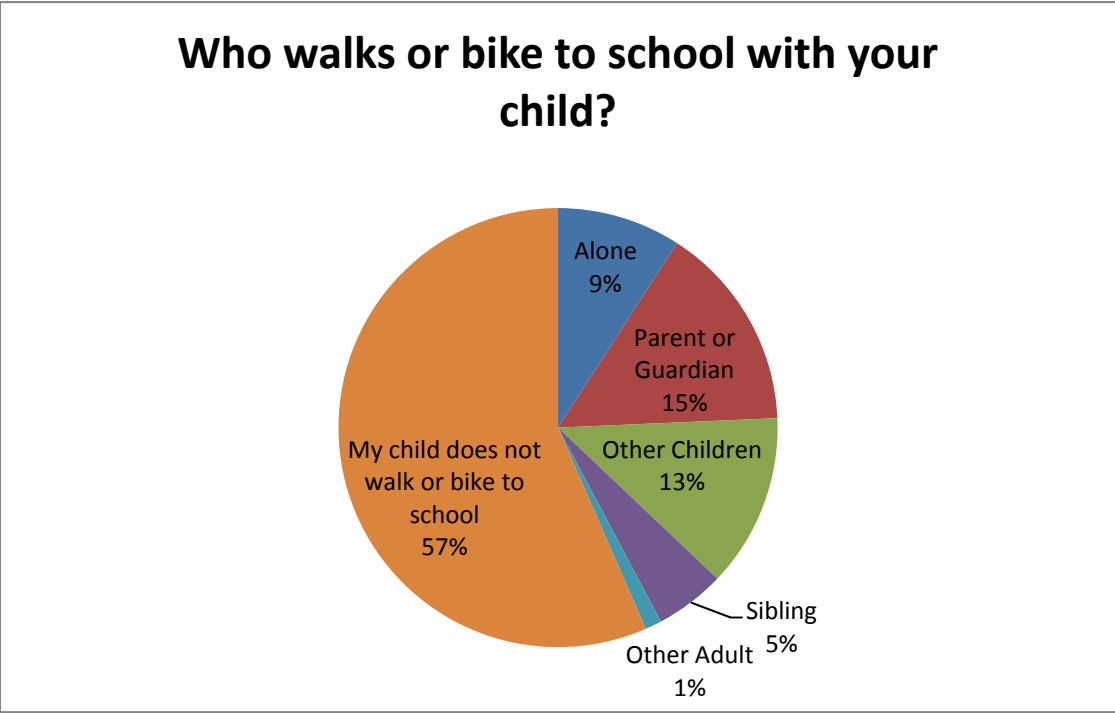
**Question 8: (A) During a typical 5-day school week, how many days of the week does your child go to school using these types of transportation:**

	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
<b>0 Times Per Week</b>	250	297	140	186	292	308	308
<b>1 Time Per Week</b>	5	3	5	21	3	0	0
<b>2 Times Per Week</b>	8	0	3	11	0	0	0
<b>3 Times Per Week</b>	6	2	6	8	1	0	0
<b>4 Times Per Week</b>	4	0	19	6	0	0	0
<b>5 Times Per Week</b>	33	5	133	73	11	0	0

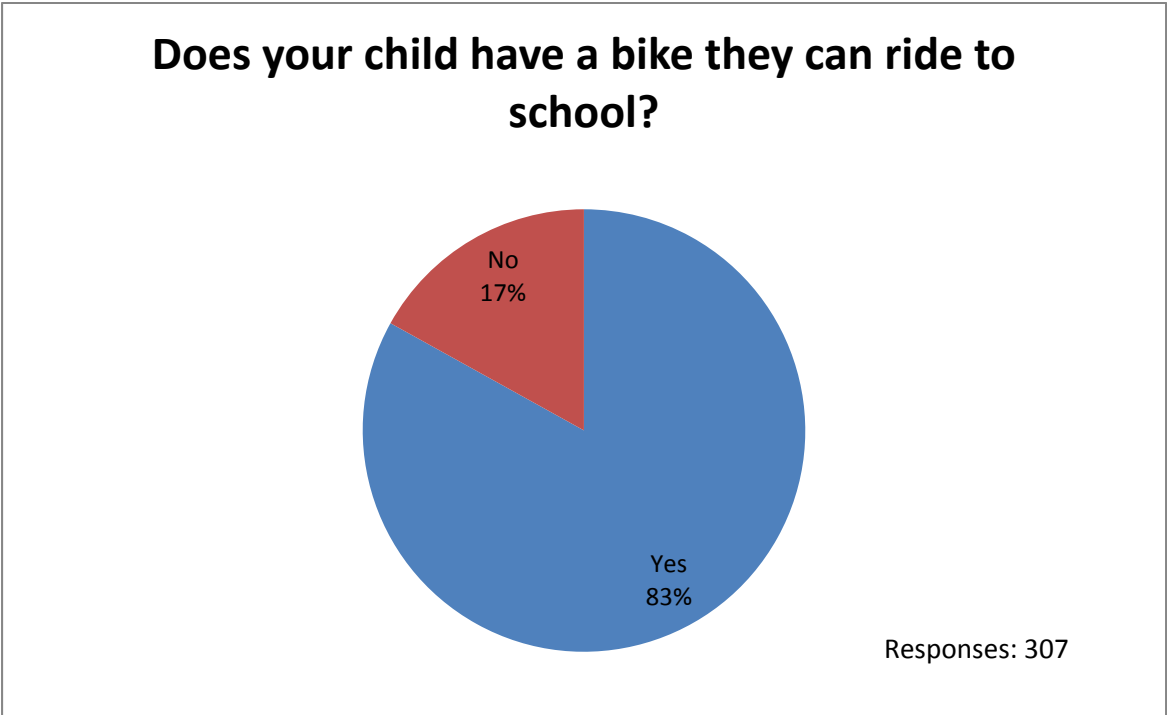
**Question 8: (B) During a typical 5-day school week, how many days of the week does your child leave from school using these types of transportation:**

	Walk	Bike	School Bus	Family Vehicle	Carpool	Public Transit	Other
<b>0 Times Per Week</b>	231	299	136	200	288	308	303
<b>1 Time Per Week</b>	16	2	4	26	11	0	2
<b>2 Times Per Week</b>	10	1	9	19	4	0	0
<b>3 Times Per Week</b>	10	1	15	8	2	0	0
<b>4 Times Per Week</b>	2	1	32	7	0	0	0
<b>5 Times Per Week</b>	38	4	111	46	3	0	3

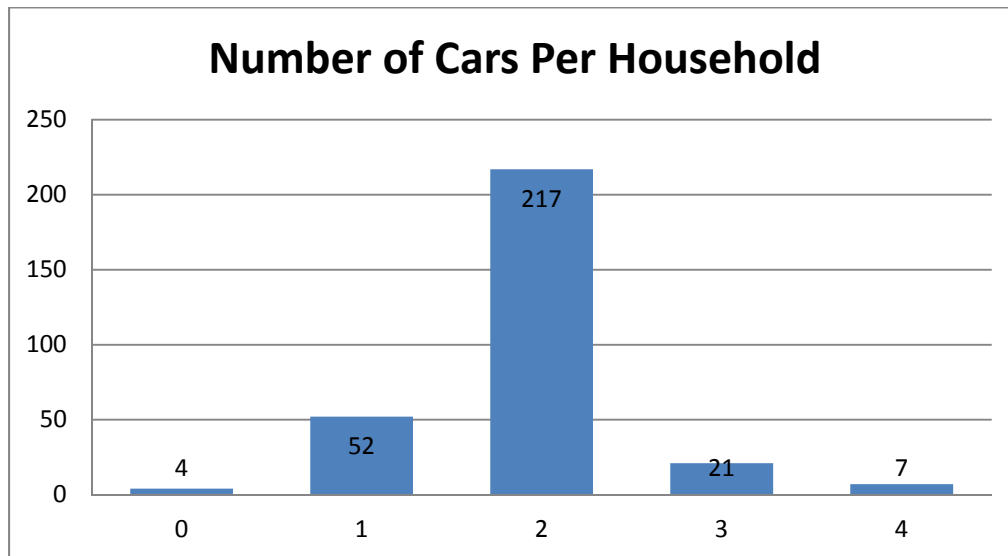
**Question 9: If your child walks or bikes to school, with whom do they usually travel (check all that apply)?**



**Question 10: Does your child have a bike that they can ride to school?**



**Question 11: How many motor vehicles are kept at home for use by members of your household?**

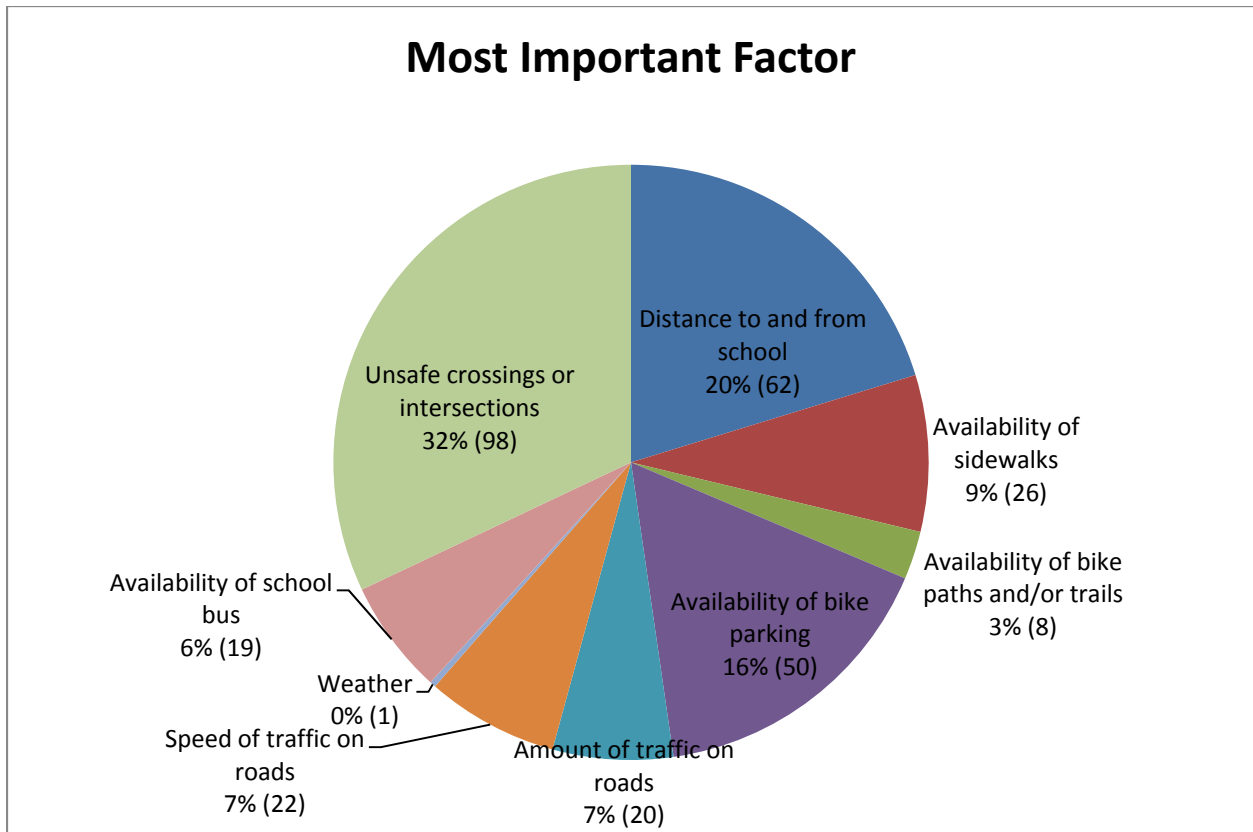


Responses: 301

**Question 12: (A) Currently, how important are the following in your decision to let your child walk or bike to school?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important or Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Distance to and from school	13 (9.85%)	63 (47.73%)	23 (17.42%)	18 (13.64%)	15 (11.36%)
Availability of sidewalks	235 (77.56%)	32 (10.56%)	7 (2.31%)	6 (1.98%)	23 (7.59%)
Availability of bike paths and/ or trails	147 (49.66%)	58 (19.59%)	45 (15.20%)	15 (5.07%)	31 (10.47%)
Availability of bike parking	93 (31.42%)	84(28.38%)	59 (19.93%)	31 (10.47%)	29 (9.80%)
Amount of traffic on roads	253 (83.22%)	23 (7.57%)	3 (0.99%)	5 (1.64%)	20 (6.58%)
Speed of traffic on roads	258 (85.15%)	19 (6.27%)	3 (0.99%)	5 (1.65%)	18 (5.94%)
Availability of crossing guards	237 (78.48%)	34 (11.26%)	6 (1.99%)	4 (1.32%)	21 (6.95%)
Weather	135 (45%)	98 (32.67%)	36 (12%)	16 (5.33%)	15 (5%)
Availability of School Bus	112 (39.16%)	53 (18.53%)	69 (24.13%)	16 (5.59%)	36 (12.59%)
Unsafe crossing or intersections	265 (87.75%)	10 (3.31%)	4 (1.32%)	4 (1.32%)	19 (6.29%)

**Question 12: (B) Indicate the one factor that is most important in your decision.**



**Question 13: (A) Currently, how important are the following in your decision to let your child walk or bike to school?**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither Important or Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Age of my child	199 (65.46%)	64 (21.05%)	16 (5.26%)	6 (1.97%)	19 (6.25%)
Family schedule	105 (33.76%)	113 (36.76%)	50 (16.08%)	25 (8.04%)	18 (5.79%)
Child's before and after school activities	98 (32.45%)	96 (31.79%)	62 (20.53%)	22 (7.28%)	24 (7.95%)
Weight of book bag	87 (28.81%)	96 (31.79%)	60 (19.87%)	31 (10.26%)	28 (9.27%)
Availability of adult supervision	146 (48.83%)	76 (25.42%)	38 (12.71%)	22 (7.36%)	17 (5.69%)
Bullying	69 (23.08%)	55 (18.39%)	83 (27.76%)	44 (14.72%)	48 (16.05%)
Personal safety	104 (34.55%)	58 (19.27%)	58 (19.27%)	34 (11.30%)	48 (16.05%)
"Stranger Danger"	155 (51.32%)	70 (23.18%)	26 (8.61%)	25 (8.28%)	26 (8.61%)



**Question 13: (B) Indicate the one factor that is most important in your decision.**

