

Contact: George Diepenbrock
Health Department
Office: (785) 856-7360
gdiepenbrock@ldchealth.org



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 11, 2019

Baldwin, Eudora parents can help guide planning for safe walking, biking routes to school

LAWRENCE — Eudora and Baldwin City parents have an opportunity in coming weeks to help a group of community partners identify ways to improve walking and biking routes to school for elementary and middle school students.

The Be Active Safe Routes program has opened its 10- to 15-minute online parent survey for [Eudora](#) and [Baldwin City](#) to give parents the opportunity to share their school transportation experiences. The survey information will be used to inform district-wide Safe Routes to School plans to set priorities for implementation for both school districts.

A link to the survey is also available on the [Be Active Safe Routes website](#), and Be Active Safe Routes representatives will host a feedback table at parent-teacher conferences in Eudora on Oct. 16-17 and in Baldwin City on Oct. 23-24. Schools will also be distributing information to parents about how to take the survey.

“We all want the best for every child, and biking and walking to school is beneficial to personal health, educational outcomes and the environment,” said Sarah Hartsig, Health Promotion Specialist for the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. “The survey and the parent-teacher conferences are the chances for parents to share their own experiences with us and help us find solutions to improve the experience and opportunity for all students to be able to walk and bike to school.”

The Douglas County Community Health Plan includes a goal to increase the percent of children who walk or bike to school from 18.4% to 20% by 2023.

In Douglas County, the Be Active Safe Routes program is a comprehensive approach to make neighborhoods safe and accessible for everyone. In addition to improving safety, Be Active Safe Routes benefits communities by reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, increasing the opportunity to be physically active and building community cohesion. The program includes partners from across Douglas County, including Lawrence, Eudora and Baldwin City.

“To help us form a good plan that works to give every child access to a safe walking and biking route to school and also that helps strengthen our neighborhoods, we need responses and feedback from as many parents as possible in our community who live this every day,” Hartsig said.