

**ACTION AGENDA ITEM
BOARD MEETING
May 12, 2015**

TOPIC: APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND:

Fort Worth Independent School District supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments. On August 12, 2014, the Board approved a resolution to support the City of Fort Worth's efforts to create the healthiest student population and work toward a goal of at least 25% of schools getting certified as Blue Zone Schools by 2017.

The Safe Routes to School Resolution allows the District to partner with the City of Fort Worth alongside Blue Zones Project Fort Worth in strengthening a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods, and removing barriers to walking and bicycling to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities. As a result of this partnership, the District will address street modification projects that affect school travel routes; will work with the City to apply for Safe Routes to School funding; will identify an employee to focus on Safe Routes to School to collaborate with other departments and community partners and will participate in International Walk to School and/or International Bike to School Days.

STRATEGIC GOAL:

1-Increase Student Achievement

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve Resolution to Support the City of Fort Worth's Efforts to Achieve Safe Routes to Schools.
2. Decline to Approve Resolution to Support the City of Fort Worth's Efforts to Achieve Safe Routes to Schools
3. Remand to staff for further study

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution to Support the City of Fort Worth's Efforts to Achieve Safe Routes to Schools.

FUNDING SOURCE

Additional Details

No Cost

Not Applicable

COST:

None

VENDOR:

Not Applicable

PURCHASING MECHANISM

Not a purchase

Purchasing Support Documents Needed:

- Bid – Bid Summary / Evaluation
- Inter-Local (IL) – Price Quote and IL Contract Summary Required
- Sole Source – Price Quote and Notarized FWISD Sole Source Affidavit
- Emergency – Price Quote and Emergency Affidavit

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL/DEPARTMENTS

All Schools

RATIONALE:

Approving the Safe Routes to Schools Resolution will help to keep Fort Worth ISD students healthy and safe, therefore increasing student achievement.

INFORMATION SOURCE:

Art Cavazos
Patricia Linares
Georgi Roberts

RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Fort Worth Independent School District supports policies and programs that focus on health and wellness and healthier community environments;

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2014 the Fort Worth Independent School District has resolved to support the efforts to create the healthiest student population and work toward a goal of at least 25% of schools getting certified as Blue Zones Schools by 2017;

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in the rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health problems among children (and adults);

WHEREAS, the childhood obesity epidemic is a national health crisis with one in every three children overweight and obese, and one out of three children in Tarrant County, 2-14 years of age are either obese or overweight, 11.5% over weight and 20.4% are obese;

WHEREAS, from 1969 to 2007, the percentage of children nationally who walked or bicycled to school decreased from 48% to 13%;

WHEREAS, when it is safe, convenient, and fun to walk to neighborhood schools, our children are healthier, our streets are safer for everyone, and our communities thrive;

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to school; and

WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School initiatives can strengthen a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by creating beneficial interactions between children and adults and that help to remove barriers to walking and bicycling to school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) in partnership with the City of Fort Worth (COFW) alongside Blue Zones Project Fort Worth will:

1. participate in the Safe Routes to School initiative in order to strengthen the quality of life for Fort Worth students, families, and neighborhoods;
2. identify a specific employee to focus on Safe Routes To School to collaborate with other departments and community partners;
3. conduct walking audits for all elementary schools by 2018;
4. work together with the COFW and other partners to apply for Safe Routes to School funding to prioritize the safety and comfort of school children in street modification projects that affect school travel routes; and

5. participate in International Walk to School and/or International Bike to School Day.

This resolution is hereby introduced and adopted by the Fort Worth Independent school District at its regular meeting held on the 12th Day of May, 2015.

Fort Worth Independent School District

SIGNED: _____
Norman Robbins, Board President

ATTEST: _____
Ann Sutherland, Board Secretary