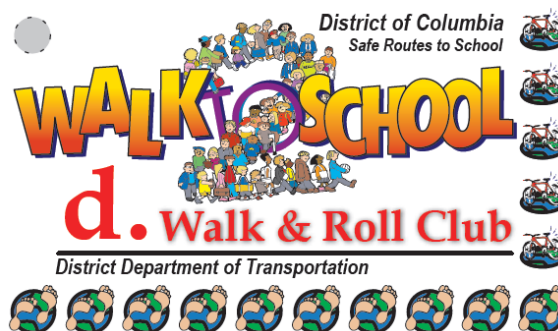


WALK AND ROLL CLUB

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Key Parents

What is the Walk and Roll Club?

The Club is a [new initiative](#) sponsored by the DC Dept of Transportation, organized by the same office that promotes [Safe Routes to School](#). It encourages safe alternatives to driving to school ... with all the health, environmental, and traffic benefits that go along with it.



Is there more information available?

Yes. A DDOT instructional flyer was given to each teacher at Key. You can [download your own copy here](#) ... or explore the links in this FAQ sheet.

Why is Key participating?

For starters, October is International Walk to School month (see www.walktoschool.org for more great reading). Our participation in the program is a coordinated effort among the faculty, the student Green Team, and the PTA's Green Committee. We know there are numerous challenges to getting our kids to & from school, many of which lead us to choose to drive when perhaps we'd consider other options ... if they were more attractive.

We see this effort as the first of several that will get our community talking about the issue. To follow: parent surveys/discussions, reviews of infrastructure issues, some 'pilot projects' with pedpools (aka 'walking schoolbus'), and hopefully some positive improvements.

What if I live far away from school? Or don't have the time to walk (or roll) with my child? Are there alternatives ways my child can participate?

Yes, certainly.

Taking a Metrobus counts ... you're walking to/from the bus. (Plan your trip [here](#)).

Doing laps around the playground counts, before/after/during school. No need to even leave the school yard. Two full laps is about a quarter-mile ... good for a credit. Since you asked, a full lap is Flagpole > cafeteria > swing sets > top of Fulton steps > back up to flagpole.

Some parents may explore the idea of a 'walking school bus' ... dropping off at Location "A" (e.g., Wachovia parking lot), and walking/rolling a group of kids in together for the 'last mile'. Or walking each others' kids to school in a 'pedpool'. Either idea encourages walking and cuts down on vehicle traffic in front of the school.

Does my child get credit for getting TO school? Or FROM school?

Doesn't matter – either one. One trip or alternative activity is one credit.

How do the cards get 'punched' ?

In the morning: look for the parent/student hole punchers on the blacktop, usually found near the 'Walk & Roll' sign up on the fence by the basketball courts facing the playground. If you miss a punch there, ask your teacher to punch or Sharpie-mark your card. Or, Ms. Johnson at the front desk. The Honor System reigns here -- kids self-certify that they walked or rolled in that day (or the previous day).

What if we lose a card?

A few additional cards are available from Ms. Johnson in the front office. Put your name & school on the back, and ask someone to re-mark your card.

What are the incentives for kids to get their cards punched?

With each five credits, they can pick up a nominal prize (a tie-on for their backpack) and DDOT is providing more nominal prizes (coloring books / sticky pads) for kids who can rack up 15 credits (a 'full' card). These can be picked up from Ms. Johnson in the front office at Key, and should be received at home as though an Olympic Medal had been obtained. Or at least it should inspire conversation about how the commute is going ... and how it could be better.

We'll collect the cards at the end of the program (after Halloween). Schools with the highest per capita participation rate, we are told, are in the running for a **Smoothie Party**, featuring smoothies from a bike-powered blender. [Parents who participate will likely want to blend their own frozen concoctions at a different venue; more on this later.]

Other resources:

The [Washington Area Bicyclist Association](#) has some good ideas on Safe Routes to School, as does the [National Center for Safe Routes to School](#).

We plan to do an assessment of our area with some [checklists for 'walkability' and 'bikeability'](#) that can be found online.

Tell us about it!

You may (and do) have your own ideas about how to improve the commuting situation around Key. Send us a note at greentips@palisadesdc.org, or email your Green Committee chairs [Dave Williams](#) and [George Beronio](#).

Thanks for participating in Walk & Roll!