



Thank you for participating in our Safe Routes to School Open House

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Be Active Safe Routes initiative partners are working on a citywide Safe Routes to School Plan. We are looking for your input!

Here's how you can participate:

1

Take a moment to read through the boards

The boards lining the room provide context to our Safe Routes initiative. They detail the purpose of creating a plan and offer strategies that can be implemented at the school level.

2

Find the table with the school of interest to you

Discuss the proposed routes near your school and ask any specific questions you have regarding walking and biking to school in your neighborhood.

3

Provide feedback

While the open house discussions will be school-based. Your insight will establish priorities which will be used to guide a citywide plan.

Your input plays an important part in drafting the citywide plan. Community goals and expectations as well as the gathered data will be used to draft the plan. The USD 497 School Board and Lawrence City Commission will review the drafted plan and give their approval in order to finalize it.



Purpose

Safe Routes to School is a movement that aims to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, City of Lawrence, USD 497, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Sustainability Office are working together to create a Safe Routes to School plan during the 2019-2020 school year.

Comprehensive Safe Routes to School initiatives have been shown to be effective at increasing physical activity, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, and increasing the number of opportunities to build a connection within the community. The 6 E's of Safe Routes to School summarize the key components of a comprehensive, integrated approach.

The 6 E's framework includes:

EDUCATION – Providing students and the community with the skills to walk and bicycle safely, educating them about benefits of walking and bicycling, and teaching them about the broad range of transportation choices.

ENCOURAGEMENT – Generating enthusiasm and increased walking and bicycling for students through events, activities, and programs.

ENGINEERING – Creating physical improvements to streets and neighborhoods that make walking and bicycling safer, more comfortable, and more convenient.

ENFORCEMENT – Deterring unsafe traffic behaviors and encouraging safe habits by people walking, bicycling and driving in school neighborhoods and along school routes.

EQUITY – Ensuring that Safe Routes to School initiatives are benefiting all demographic groups, with particular attention to ensuring safe, healthy, and fair outcomes for low-income students, students of color, students of all genders, students with disabilities, and others.

EVALUATION – Provides a baseline understanding of what is happening in the community — how many children currently walk and bike and what the barriers are.





Strategies

Schools can employ a variety of non-infrastructure strategies which can be used to improve safety and accessibility, and reduce traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Annual Travel Tally – Baseline measurement of the number of students who walk, bike, carpool, take the bus, or get a ride to school from a caregiver. The tallies help gauge the effects of non-infrastructure programs on student travel choices. These are administered in September and May each school year, most recently occurring in September 2019.

Bike and Walk to School Days – These national days encourage bicycling and walking to school. National Walk to School day is in October, while National Bike to School day is in May.

Bike Education Safety Training – This training integrates bike lessons and safety training into physical education programs. Students learn about proper helmet fit, rules of the road, bicycle safety checks, road hazards, and how to safely navigate through an intersection. Some students learn how to ride a bike for the first time. In Lawrence this program is called Lawrence Bike Education Safety Training (LBEST).

Bike Friendly Driver Training - The Bicycle Friendly Driver program, presented by the Lawrence Bicycle Club, is a quick class designed to expand awareness on the ways in which motor vehicles are supposed to interact with bicycles. Topics include sharing the road/taking the lane, infrastructure, bicycle laws, common points of conflict/crashes.

Bike Rodeos – A bike rodeo is an event that provides elementary and middle school children with the opportunity to learn, practice, and demonstrate bike handling skills in a fun, safe, and encouraging atmosphere. Adult volunteers run an obstacle course set up using chalk and traffic cones, with the objective of teaching the children how to better control their bikes.

Equipment Giveaways – Students may not have the proper equipment, such as bikes, helmets, locks, and lights, to safely bike to school. Schools can encourage biking by offering discounted, loaned, or free bicycle safety equipment to students. Programs are directly coordinated through the school or as a part of partnerships with outside community organizations who offer resources, helmets, and other equipment.

Girls in Gear and Girls on the Run – Statistically girls are half as likely to walk or bike to school than boys. Some Safe Routes to School programs host after-school clubs or programs that are designed to overcome the barriers that may impede girls and non-binary students in more traditional programs. These programs create an environment that nurtures girls' health, love for bicycling, and knowledge of safe pedestrian practices.

Identify a School Building Champion – A person with enthusiasm and time to provide leadership to the group is necessary to build a strong Safe Routes to School program.

Incentive Program for Walking and Biking – Schools can track the number of times students have walked or biked to school and provide giveaways, extra recesses time, or various other items to encourage kids to participate.

Marathon Club – A school Marathon Club is a free program to encourage students to enjoy the outdoors and walk or run a mile during club days. The goal is to accumulate 26 miles during the school year. Students earn rewards once they've completed a marathon.

Marked Routes – Schools can paint a small icon on the sidewalk indicating the Safe Route to School (SRTS) Routes. For example, if the school mascot is the panther, small paw prints could be painted along the route.



Strategies Continued

National Bike Month and National Bike Challenge – Students can participate in the organized promotion of the National Bike Month every May and the National Bike Challenge every May 1 to September 30.

Parent Survey – This survey asks for information about what factors affect whether parents allow their children to walk or bike to school, the presence of key safety-related conditions along routes to school, and related background information. The survey results help determine how to improve opportunities for children to walk or bike to school, and measure parental attitude changes as local SRTS programs occur. This survey was conducted in 2014, 2015, and the fall of 2019.

Park and Walk Programs – Generally for families who live too far away to walk, this is a way to include them in Safe Routes to School. “Park and walk” sites would be designated off-site, parents can then walk from that location with students, reducing traffic around the school and encouraging physical activity.

Pedestrian Safety Education – Teaching students safety rules about appropriate walking/crossing places and rules of the road. Teachers, administrators, or other staff can offer education on bullying, crime, abduction, and offer strategies such as walking with friends and identifying safe spaces along routes.

Regular Communication to Parents about SRTS – Schools can share Safe Routes to School route information, safety information, reminders about pick up and drop off procedures, and much more to parents. This can occur on a monthly basis.

Safe Routes to School Route Maps – Individual school’s route maps should be available on their website, provided to students at the beginning of the school year, and discussed prior to Bike and Walk to School Days.

Safety Reminders at Drop-off/ Pick-up Locations – Vehicle drop-off and pick-up zones are often areas where unsafe driver behavior occurs. School staff or volunteers can remind drivers of safe behaviors by handing out fliers with information about procedures and following the rules.

Safety Valets – Volunteers open and close curb-side motor vehicle doors for students entering and exiting vehicles. Parents remain in their vehicle and leave immediately after the child exits. Valets help speed up the drop-off/pick-up process by allowing parents to remain in the car while students are channeled directly from the vehicle zone to the pedestrian zone.

School SRTS Team (Includes Students) – The School Building Champion needs support from a School SRTS Team, which includes students to help identify SRTS events and programming.

Staggered Dismissal – Allow bicycle riders and walkers to be dismissed earlier than students traveling by bus or car.

Student Safety Patrols – Upper grade students are trained to assist other students with navigating challenging areas like driveways and reinforcing safe behaviors with the support of school staff, adult volunteers or crossing guards.

Student-Produced Maps – Mapping activities, either in class or at a separate event, to educate children about the best route to travel and allow them to view their trip in a new way. Children draw buildings, parks, and landmarks on their maps as a fun way to make them more interested in their surroundings as they walk.

Traffic Safety Campaign – Program designed specifically to improve the safe operating conditions through driver awareness, education, and enforcement.

Walk/Bike Activities – Various other walking and biking activities are conducted not associated with the National Bike and Walk to School days. Walking and biking activities should be encouraged more than twice a year.

Walking Audits – Walk audits help improve walking, health, and the quality of life of our community by identifying what makes streets feel comfortable for walking and what is missing.

Walking School Bus or Bike Trains – A way for children to travel to and from school on foot with adult supervision. Each “bus” walks along a set route with one or more adults leading it, picking children up at designated stops along a predetermined route and walking them to school. The process is reversed in the afternoons on the way home from school.



Safe Routes Successes



Lawrence Bike Education Safety Training (LBEST)



Walk to School Day



Travel with Care



Bike to School Day



CREATING A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN FOR LAWRENCE

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Be Active Safe Routes initiative is working on a citywide Safe Routes to School Plan. Here is our four-step process and information on how you can participate:

1 Gather information

Team members will collect data from a variety of sources, including a student travel tally and school crossing guard counts. We will also review routes and draft a summary of existing conditions.



2 Set community goals and expectations

Team members will develop plan priorities using information gathered from a parent survey, student input, and an open house hosted on Nov. 14, during which parents and community members can share feedback.



3 Draft the citywide plan

Community goals and expectations as well as the gathered data will be used to draft the plan.



4 Secure approvals

The USD 497 School Board and Lawrence City Commission will review the drafted plan and give their approval in order to finalize it.

Visit our website for more information on how you can participate in the process: www.BeActiveSafeRoutes.com





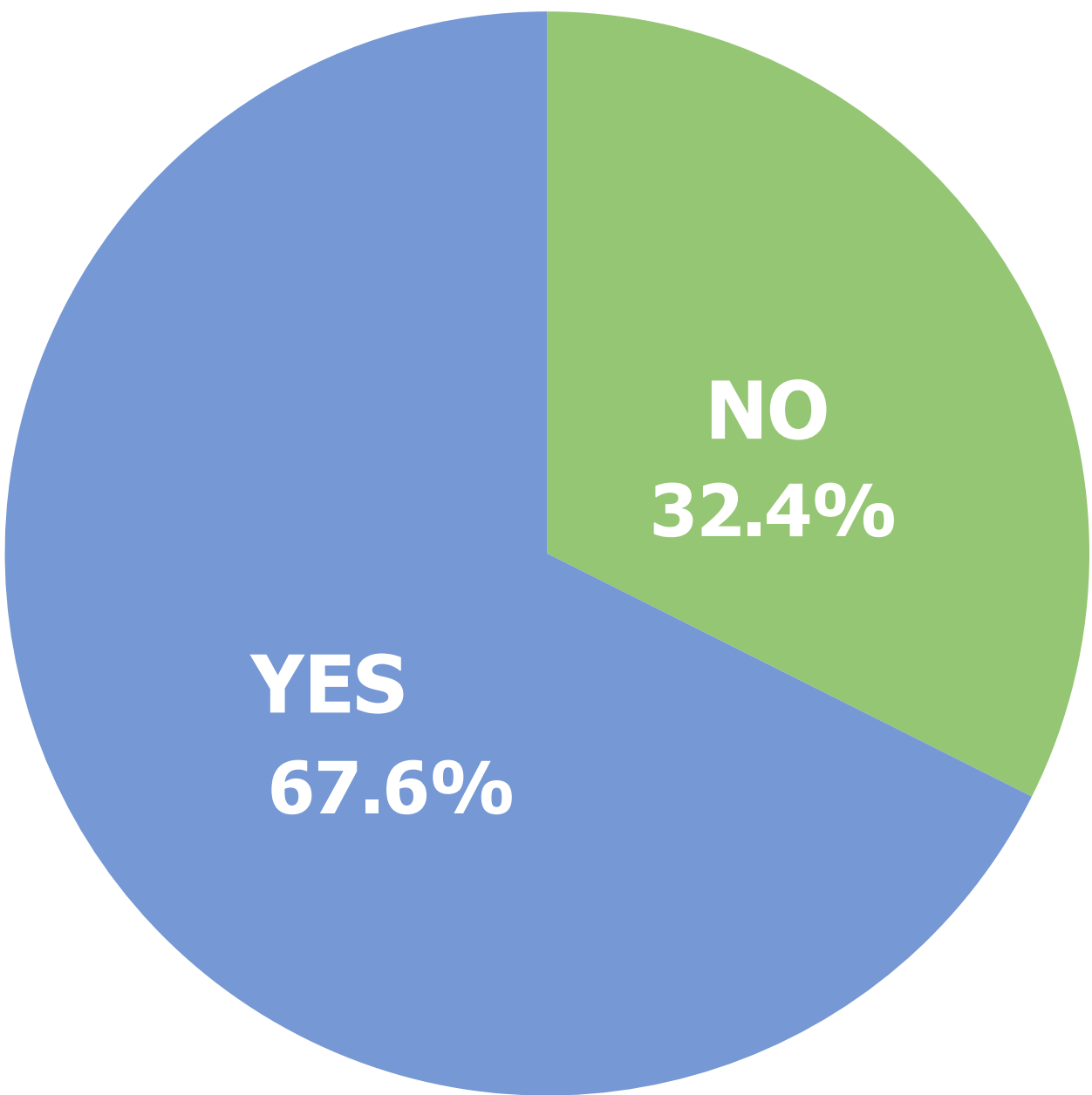
Parent Survey Results

A parent survey was conducted from September 13th to October 25th, 2019. This was the first time the survey was conducted since 2015. The survey asked parents to share their thoughts about travel to and from school for children in grades K-8. A sampling of citywide survey results are shown. Per school and citywide survey results will be available in early 2020.

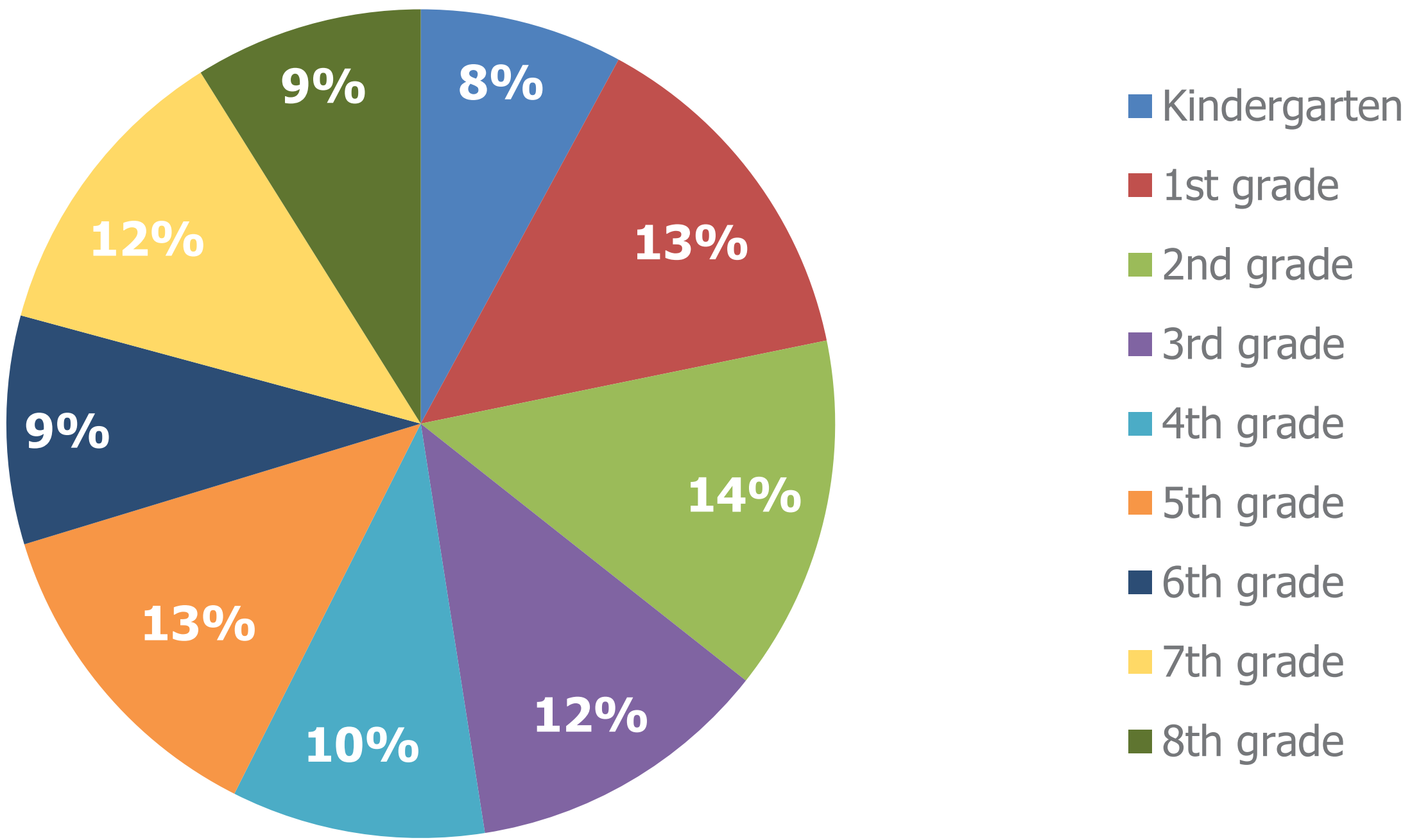
Which school does your child attend?

| School Names | Number of participant per School | Percent |
|--|----------------------------------|---------|
| Kennedy Elementary | 2 | 1% |
| Cordley Elementary | 14 | 6% |
| Pinckney Elementary | 4 | 2% |
| Langston Hughes Elementary | 13 | 6% |
| Broken Arrow Elementary | 36 | 17% |
| Deerfield Elementary | 17 | 8% |
| Hillcrest Elementary | 10 | 5% |
| New York Elementary | 7 | 3% |
| Prairie Park Elementary | 9 | 4% |
| Quail Run Elementary | 14 | 6% |
| Schwegler Elementary | 8 | 4% |
| Sunflower Elementary | 10 | 5% |
| Sunset Hill Elementary | 4 | 2% |
| Woodlawn Elementary | 2 | 1% |
| Billy Mills Middle School | 14 | 6% |
| Liberty Memorial Central Middle School | 7 | 3% |
| West Middle School | 23 | 11% |
| Southwest Middle School | 17 | 8% |
| Not available | 5 | 2% |

Has your child asked you for permission to walk or bike to/ from school in the last year?



In what grade is your child?

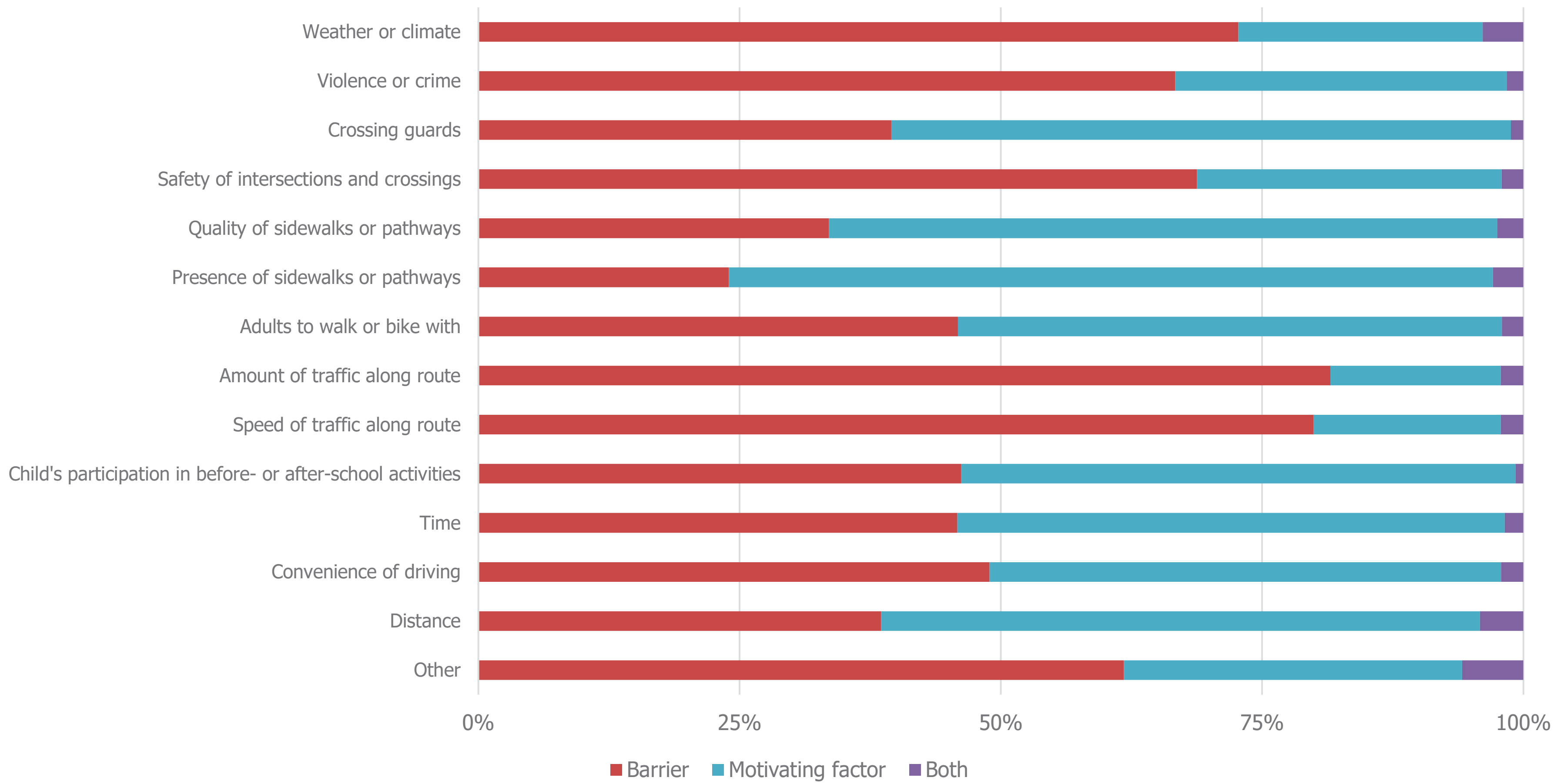




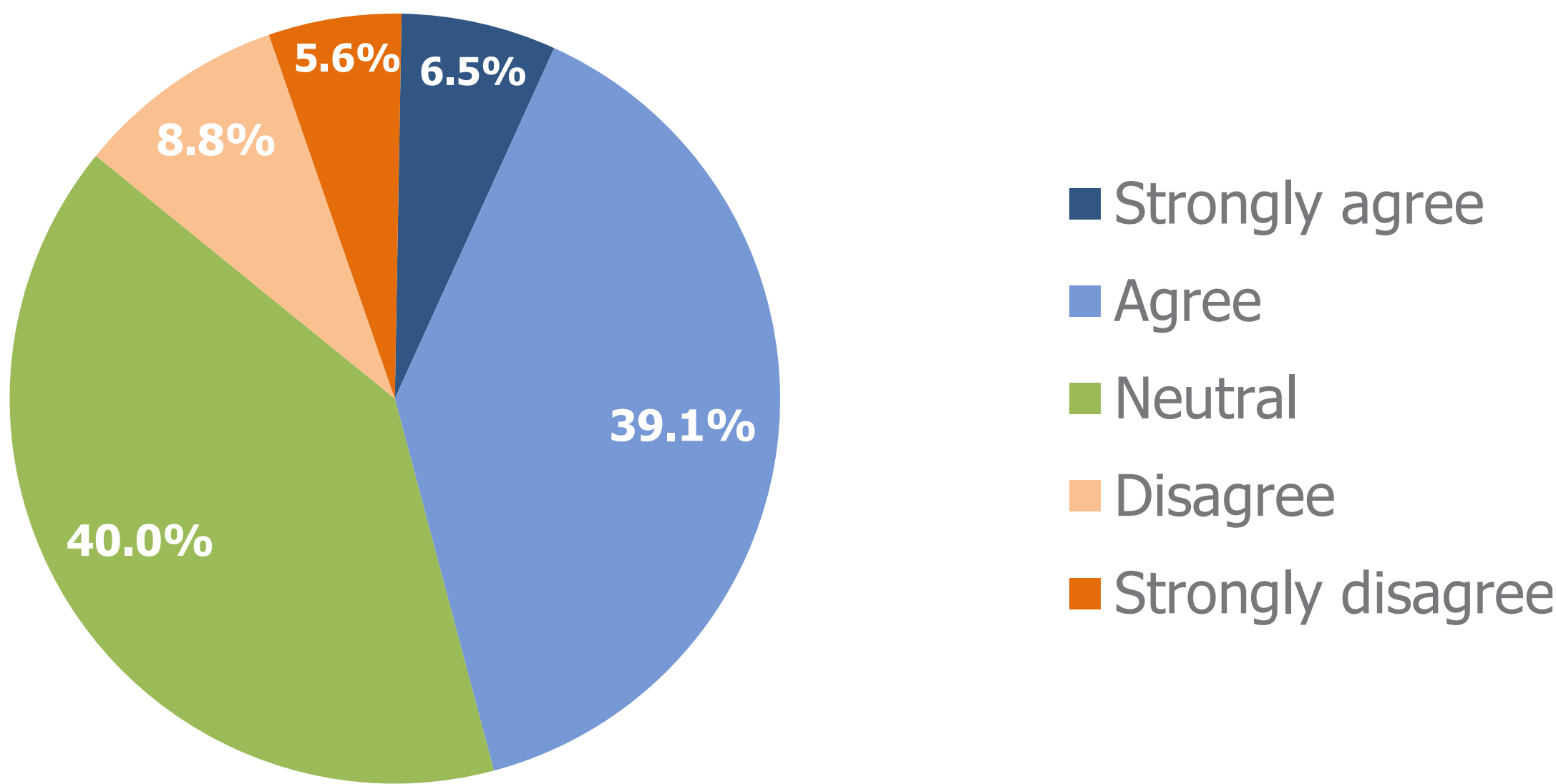
Parent Survey

Results Continued

Indicate whether the following are motivating factors or barriers in allowing your child to walk or bike to/from school.

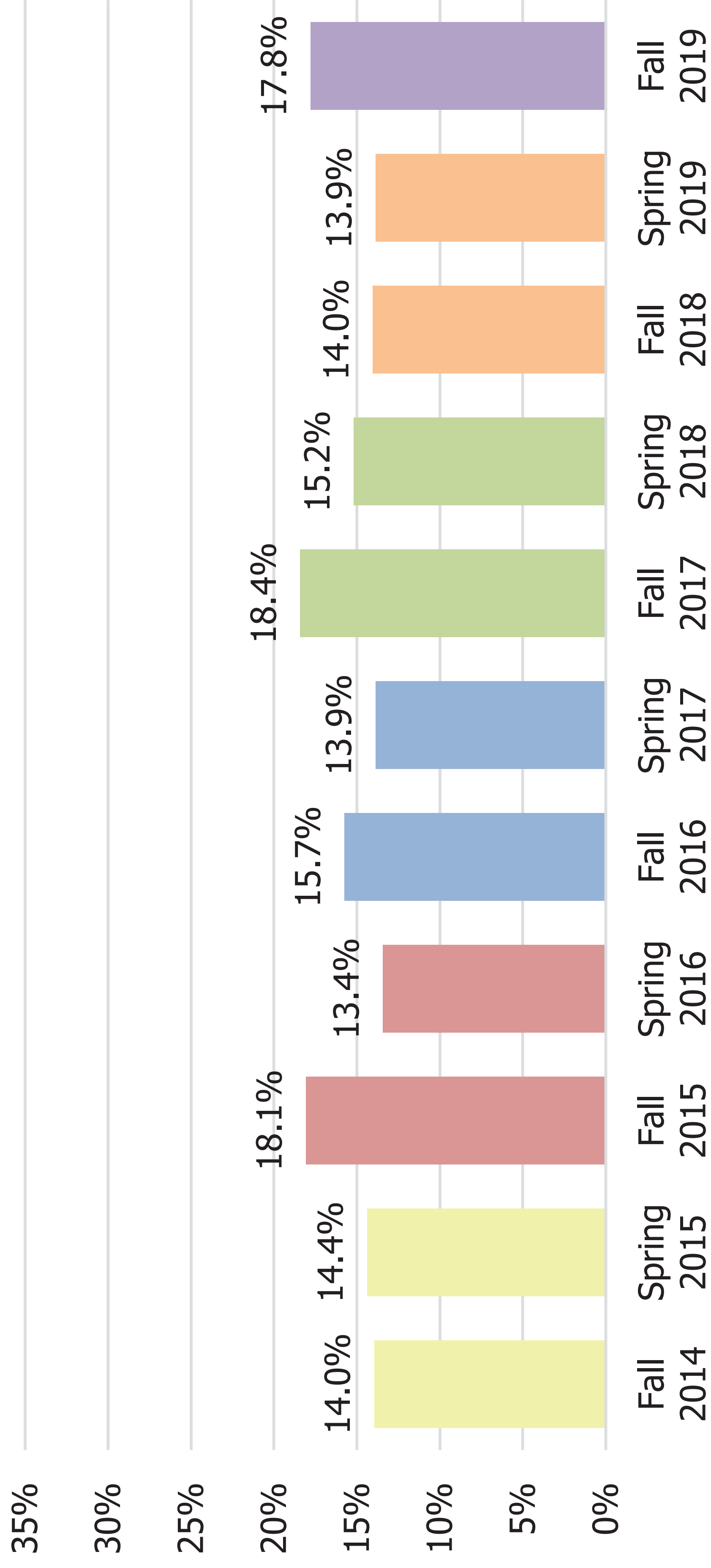


My child's school encourages walking and biking to/from school.



Travel tallies have been conducted every fall and spring since the fall of 2014. These tallies are self-reported in the classroom. An instructor asks students how they arrived at school that day and how they intent to go home. Students are asked if they are going to travel by foot, bike, school bus, vehicle, carpool, city transit vehicle, or other.

Per semester active student travel for all Lawrence Public Elementary and Middle Schools



Source: Semi-Annual Travel Tally - AM Tuesday/Thursday Counts