



**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGLER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
RECOGNIZING AUGUST 14 - 18, 2023 AS
PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY WEEK**

WHEREAS, walking and bicycling to school are viable and environmentally sound forms of transportation, an excellent form of exercise, and provide quality recreation; and

WHEREAS, a lack of physical activity plays a leading role in rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health problems among children, and being able to bicycle or walk to school offers an opportunity to build activity into a daily routine; and

WHEREAS, driving students to school by private vehicle contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Florida is the second deadliest state in the nation for pedestrians, according to the 2022 “Dangerous by Design” report from Smart Growth America, and the Daytona Beach-Deltona-Ormond metro area, of which Flagler County is included, earned the unwanted number 1 ranking as the deadliest place to walk; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of children could be saved each year if communities take steps to make pedestrian and bicycle safety a priority; and

WHEREAS, an important role for parents and legal guardians is to teach children about pedestrian and bicycle safety and become aware of the challenges and dangers that they face on their trip to and from school each day; and

WHEREAS, Flagler Schools believes that raising awareness of bicyclist and pedestrian safety is vital to ensuring the health and well-being of all students and citizens in Flagler County; and

WHEREAS, the Community Problem Solvers group “Street Talk” is acknowledged as initiating a districtwide focus on pedestrian and cyclist safety and presented the inaugural PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY PROCLAMATION in 2016, and brought safety training to the schools, providing the skills and knowledge necessary to travel safely to and from school, whether it be through walking or cycling; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote public awareness of this important issue, Flagler Schools strongly urges all motorists to be on alert for bicyclists and pedestrians on our roadways, especially when making turns; for all bicyclists and pedestrians to ride or walk safely, courteously and according to the law; and to do what they can to make themselves more visible to motorists including wearing bright, reflective clothing and using appropriate lights on bicycles when dark; and

WHEREAS, community-based partnerships are essential to the success of these initiatives and include the following:

- the Florida Department of Transportation's "TARGET ZERO" initiative that aims to reduce transportation-related serious injuries and deaths across Florida to ZERO;
- The Flagler County Sheriff's Office operates a Bike Safety team, holds bike safety rodeos, initiated "Operation Pedestrian Alert" to promote pedestrian safety, and uses social media to spread safety messages;
- The River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization created a "Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program" that includes a variety of project planning and safety-related activities to improve bicycling and walking in our communities, provides free bicycle helmets and fittings for children and adults, and offers pedestrian and bicycle safety information on their website, <https://www.r2ctpo.org/publicinvolvement/safety/>;
- Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs) are locally based, data-driven groups of highway safety advocates that are committed to a common goal of improving traffic safety in their communities. In the past year, our local Flagler CTST brought together city, county, and state officials as well as government staff and citizens for pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvement projects in the Hammock and the City of Flagler Beach;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLAGLER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD that the first full week of school, August 14-18, 2023, shall be "*Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Week*" in Flagler County and urges all residents to recognize this important initiative by becoming more aware of cyclists and walkers and take appropriate precautions to ensure the safety of all students using our roadways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Flagler Schools encourages all students to become familiar with the benefits offered by the Pedestrian and Cyclist education programs in our community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual knowledge and safety, thereby preventing pedestrian and cyclist injuries and deaths.

ADOPTED by the Members of the Flagler County School Board, Flagler County, Florida, at the regular open public meeting thereof, held on the 25th day of July 2023.



Cheryl Massaro, Chair
School Board of Flagler County

LaShakia Moore, Interim Superintendent
Flagler Schools