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## L.A. SCHOOLS CELEBRATE "INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY"

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA** (October 7, 2013) – The Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) is proud to support "International Walk to School Day" on October 9, 2013. LADOT is participating in group walks to school and providing planning and logistical support for the events.

"Walk to School Day may be a one-day event, but it inspires families to walk to school and leads to long-term changes that encourage more walking and bicycling in our communities," says Mayor Garcetti. "The collaboration between LAUSD and LADOT on this inaugural citywide Walk to School Day is the first of many activities to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school. This will improve our health while decreasing traffic on our streets."

The goal is to raise student and community awareness of and commitment to creating safe walking routes to school, increasing pedestrian safety, and promoting physical activity through walking. Students, parents, and community leaders will meet at designated locations and use preferred walking routes to get to school. Participants will receive banners, t-shirts, and other tokens of recognition from LADOT.

"As part of the forthcoming Safe Route to School Strategic Plan, LADOT is placing increasing emphasis on pedestrian safety and Walk to School Day as part of our effort to encourage and teach young students to walk and bike with care," said LADOT pedestrian coordinator Margot Ocañas.

LADOT thanks the Los Angeles Unified School District for their partnership and support of walking to school. Like the event at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WalkToSchoolDayLA">www.facebook.com/WalkToSchoolDayLA</a>.

For additional information on Walk to School Day, please visit these websites:

Los Angeles Walk to School Day Walk to School Day in the USA National Center for Safe Routes to School www.walktoschoolday-la.org www.walkbiketoschool.org www.saferoutesinfo.org

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