Hermos Beach
Walk/Bike to School Survey

Parent Survey about Walking or Biking to/from School conducted in August 2019

The survey was prepared by the City of Hermosa Beach and distributed by the Hermosa Beach City School District to parents via email. The survey was provided online and received responses from parents representing approximately 400 students.

Which School does your child attend?

![Bar chart showing the number of students attending Valley View, View, and both schools.]

What grade will your child be in fall 2019?

![Bar chart showing the number of students in each grade level.]

Is the child whom you are filling this survey out for male or female?

![Bar chart showing the number of male and female students.]

How far does your child live from school?

- Less than 1/4 mile: 65
- 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile: 109
- 1/2 up to 1 mile: 119
- 1 mile up to 2 miles: 43
- More than 2 miles: 2

87% of students live within 1 mile of school

On most days how does your child arrive and leave for school?

- Walk: 157
- Bike: 144
- Other (skateboard, scooter, inline skates etc.): 63
- Family vehicle (only children in your family): 155
- Carpool (children from other families): 146
- Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (golf cart): 1
- To School
- Home from School
Has your child ever expressed interest/asked permission to walk or bike to/from school?

- Yes: 77%
- No: 23%
At what grade would you allow your child to walk or bike to/from school without an adult?

Which of the following factors influence your decision to allow, or not allow your child to walk or bike to/from school?
Would you allow your child to walk or bike to/from school if any of these problems were changed or improved?

- Distance
- Convenience of Driving
- Time of day
- Child's before or after-school activities
- Speed of traffic along route
- Amount of traffic along route
- Adults to walk or bike with
- Lack of sidewalks or pathways
- Quality of sidewalks or pathways
- Safety of intersections and crossings
- Crossing guards
- Violence or crime
- Sufficient bike parking/storage
- Multiple children at different schools
- Multiple children with different school start times

**Percentage Distribution:**

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

**Responses:**

- Distance: 224 Yes, 39 No, 77 Not Sure
- Convenience of Driving: 132 Yes, 92 No, 116 Not Sure
- Time of day: 114 Yes, 121 No, 105 Not Sure
- Child's before or after-school activities: 113 Yes, 120 No, 107 Not Sure
- Speed of traffic along route: 183 Yes, 76 No, 81 Not Sure
- Amount of traffic along route: 260 Yes, 35 No, 45 Not Sure
- Adults to walk or bike with: 269 Yes, 27 No, 44 Not Sure
- Lack of sidewalks or pathways: 213 Yes, 57 No, 70 Not Sure
- Quality of sidewalks or pathways: 243 Yes, 39 No, 58 Not Sure
- Safety of intersections and crossings: 229 Yes, 48 No, 63 Not Sure
- Crossing guards: 291 Yes, 11 No, 38 Not Sure
- Violence or crime: 274 Yes, 25 No, 41 Not Sure
- Sufficient bike parking/storage: 220 Yes, 50 No, 70 Not Sure
- Multiple children at different schools: 169 Yes, 74 No, 97 Not Sure
- Multiple children with different school start times: 137 Yes, 100 No, 103 Not Sure
If you currently allow your child to walk or bike to/from school, are any of the following benefits a factor? (Select all that apply)

- It’s fun for my child! 212
- Lower transportation costs for my family 76
- Stronger sense of community 251
- Social activity of walking/biking with other families 213
- Less traffic congestion around schools 202
- Good for the environment/sustainability 282
- Health/physical activity 276

Would you or your child be interested in participating in future walk/bike to school events or programs?

- Yes 49%
- No 11%
- Depends on the event/program 40%

Please provide any additional comments below.

- I would welcome coordinated efforts for groups of kids/adults to walk together to school.
- It’s not easy to make this clear on the survey but our family plans to walk to and from Valley school every day regardless of any improvements made. We only drive on very rare occasions when we have an appointment to get to right after school is out.
- Perhaps the biggest factor to my children walking to school, which is not mentioned here, are the benefits to myself, in that it takes much less time out of _my_ day when I don’t need to drive/walk with them.
- Please consider community-based schools rather than grade-based schools. If kids were assigned to campuses based on where they live, then parents with multiple children...
would have a single drop-off/pick-up spot which would reduce traffic, greenhouse emissions, and increase children’s physical activity.

- There definitely needs to be improved biking paths for kids. Each kid in HBSD lives close enough to bike but it is dangerous, and several kids have been hit by cars. Luckily, no fatalities yet. The school must work with the City to improve this.
- The biggest challenge we have is no sidewalk on part of 14th street that cars come quickly through. Would also like painted crosswalk at 14th/prospect.
- The intersection at Pier and Valley/Ardmore makes me gulp every time I cross and I’m an adult. On one hand, drivers are in a hurry to get through those intersections, but it is sensory overload for all - there should be police presence, or even traffic lights. A pedestrian bridge (here and at strategic locations along PCH) would be ideal! It is an overwhelming experience for pedestrians and drivers.
- I found it hard to answer some of these questions. The main reason we wouldn’t bike to View is b/c of the big hill. We’d have to walk our bikes up and down. I would love to bike there with the kids. For Valley I’m good with my kids riding to school b/c we have a flat ride there.
- Sidewalk near Valley school is way too narrow for traffic and the amount of kids. It could easily be fixed by taking out bushes there and widening sidewalk. Very dangerous with scooters, pedestrians, lots of cars, and people walking. This is right along the edge of the school on Valley Blvd.
- There sadly are no bike paths en route to school in HB
- Better bike paths are a must.
- The lack of poor access at rear of school is absurd. The back gates should be open.
- Some questions above are not relevant so in order to process had to make up answers you need N/A as an option.
- Question 15 shouldn’t be required. If I didn’t have to go to work, I would walk with my child. Unfortunately, you can’t fix that. Your suggestions may work for at home parents, but I doubt it helps working parents a lot. Thanks for the effort.
- I am very much in favor of our children walking/biking to school for many reasons. Thank you.
- Crossing Sepulveda and Valley/Ardmore at 21st Street is not ideal for my child to do but themselves. If there was a group of kids walking together, I’d feel more comfortable. Also walking by herself seems, like a safety risk.
- The city, in general, needs accessible sidewalks, cross walks, and curb cuts.
- Question 14 is poorly written and hard to understand how to answer. For the North school- you need to figure out sidewalks on streets around school including my street - 25th
- My child rides bike because we both work full time.
- Multiple pedestrians have been struck in the cross walk at 2nd and PCH
- Walking with two young children at two different schools posed a huge obstacle. When they were older and it was easier to trust their ability to navigate the drivers and crossing streets, it was easier for them to walk on their own.
Both of my children have walked to school since they were in TK/Kindergarten. My oldest started walking without an adult in 4th grade.

We are already planning a daily walking school bus down to Valley.

Cross guards in big intersections to support the actual transit signals.

Double this survey for my 6th grade girl.

I would love to allow my child to walk to school but the lack of sidewalks, crossings and traffic currently make me uncomfortable particularly prospect and pch.

Weather is also a factor. It rained a lot this winter and we did more drop off and picks up than normal in a car. We also sometimes drive our kids part of the way and drop off at the library or Von’s lower parking level. We avoid picking up and dropping off at Valley school whenever possible.

Walking distance to schools was a reason we chose our house location when we bought it.

My child would walk to and from school most days last year, however, there are 2 main factors that have now led us to driving her to and from 99% of the time now. 1. The closure of the back gate near the band room. It is much further and longer of a walk through a dusty path and she prefers not to do it. Bummer. Also, there needs to be a crosswalk AT THE VERY LEAST (if not a crossing guard) at 16th and Monterey. People do not stop at the stop sign. It is only a matter of time, sadly, that something bad happens there. Lots of kids on the beach side of the school walk that path and it is super dangerous.

We live up a steep hill, so biking is not convenient.

View is across PCH from our home so biking or walking is just not safe. We live near North so if that opens, I would totally let him walk. Lastly, if he goes with others in our neighborhood, I would let him walk to Valley in 4th Grade.

We have always walked to school, even though View was about a mile from our house. All kids should walk to school!

I already allow my child to walk/bike to school so the section that asked about changes and allowing was strange to fill out. I did not allow him to walk to View as it crossed PCH. Still don’t like my 13yo crossing that street but do allow it.

Missing from the factors of allowing my child to walk to school: are they ready? I don’t have a minimum grade if they would be ready and willing. Question 14 is poorly worded. If none of those factors went into my decision, then they improving that factor shouldn’t change my decision.

I would love for my kid to bike/walk with other kids to school but I have two different schools to get to and start times, if it were a large group of kids with parents, I would support my 3rd grader walking with a supervised group.

Our child used to walk in the mornings also and used the back gate. Since the closure last year, we usually drive him to school to save time.

I have children at different schools so drop off is busy and I don’t like crossing PCH during morning rush hour. If we lived closer to school, we would walk.
• Crossing PCH is extremely dangerous, no matter when, even for adults. I don’t think I’ll feel comfortable letting my kids cross PCH without me, even if there is a crossing guard, until they are much older and more responsible/pay attention.

• riding your bike on the sidewalk down Valley Drive is dangerous for the bikers and pedestrians

• My child already bikes to school. He rides to school because we live close and it makes sense.

• The only reason I allow my kids to walk is if they are in a group of at least 3

• Please open North School

• Love the walking school bus but the time didn’t work for us bc she was taking AR tests a lot

• I walk my son to school most days, but would not allow him to walk without me or another adult. Even though there is a crossing guard at PCH and Pier, the intersection is unpredictable. And while the crossing guard there is a kind man, he often wasn’t paying close attention to traffic and more than a few near misses.

• There is too much of a disregard for stop signs of those in rush hour traffic during school hours. There is too much disrespect for bikers along the school routes. I am a long ways away from allowing my 10 year old to commute alone to school.

• We live close to valley school where he attends!

• I either walk with my daughter and she arrives to school a little early because my younger son starts earlier, or I walk her to a friend’s house, and her friend’s mom drives her and a few other neighborhood kids. We don’t like the kids walking without an adult because of the number of cars and busy intersections. Even crossing Prospect in the marked crosswalk has given us a few scares with people who blatantly ignore the stop signs because they are on their phones. People are distracted and, in a hurry, which makes it dangerous for pedestrians.

• It would be great to have scooter lockup/parking at View school

• I feel like crossing Sepulveda is very dangerous. Sometimes, one crossing guard does not seem like enough coverage to safely get all the way across the street. Maybe 2 guards? What ever happened to the idea of a walking bridge OVER Sepulveda? I feel like it was talked about a few years ago. Potentially crossing on north end of Vons and before 24-hour fitness... Not sure of street name, maybe 16/17th?

• We need a sidewalk on 14TH STREET. Our sidewalks end on both sides of the street before they get to Prospect. There is new construction going up now that should be required to complete the sidewalk which would make it much safer for all school commuters from our neighborhood 0 kids and adults!

• This really won’t be an issue until they get a little older, but the number of streets without sidewalks is probably not expected to change anytime soon, so not sure anything would apply to our family at this time.

• There needs to be bike storage, it is an obvious thing that this school/town should have. It would also be helpful if there were more street signs indicating the school.

• Foot bridge over PCH (at 16th St.) is needed for the safe route for kids to walk to school.
• It's always faster to walk than drive to school
• We feel very comfortable having our child walk to Hermosa Valley School. We would have allowed him to walk to school alone before 4th grade if younger grade were housed at Valley. We did not feel comfortable having him walk to and from View alone. PCH is scary. The crossing guards work hard to keep the intersection at 21st St and PCH safe. Due to miscommunication he did walk home alone from View a few times. He was fine and loved the sense of accomplishment.
• The biggest deterrent from our family walking to school is having multiple children at different schools with different start times...and the start times are within 15 minutes of each other.
• Our main reason for driving is crossing PCH. If a safe crossing was created, we would consider it.
• There's no sidewalk at the corner of 18th St. and PCH. There are 20 kids who walk around this corner to get up to View or down to Valley on school days. The city says they're putting in a pedestrian walkway here, but it's been a 6-month process with not much progress. I would welcome the school district encouraging the city to address this unsafe pedestrian walkway before someone gets hurt.
• There are a lot of kids that come from the south side of Hermosa that walk down Valley. It would be nice to have some kind of sign along Valley that alert drivers that Valley is a school route. Especially starting at 2nd and Valley.
• If you are going to continue to shut the gate in the back, please pave the wood chips! This is dusty, dirty, and ruins shoes. Basically, the kids that walk down the back hill off Loma, get to walk through dirt and mud twice per day!!!
• My children are now at the same school and I would love for them to walk to and from school. I am not comfortable with them walking alone at this point and would appreciate a walking group to/from school.
• Two out of my three kids bike to school. As a family we decided once they attend Valley and no longer have to cross Sepulveda they could walk and/or bike to school. That decision has worked out well and we feel by 4th grade they are mature and independent enough to get themselves safely to and from school.
• It would be great if the school could help connect parents whose kids want to walk/bike to school so we could arrange to have them go as a group
• I would only allow my child to walk home from school if a crossing guard was present at the intersection of PCH and 2nd street. I already expressed this need to our mayor but it hasn't been implemented. This is an urgent need for all kids living between 8th street and 1st St. east of PCH and who walk to and from Hermosa Valley.
• I would only allow my child to walk home from school if a crossing guard was present at the intersection of PCH and 2nd street. I already expressed this need to our mayor, but it hasn't been implemented. This is an urgent need for all kids living between 8th street and 1st St. east of PCH and who walk to and from Hermosa Valley.
• Our family drives to school as it is time with my kids before work. We pick them up as we need to promptly head to activities after. I don’t think we would participate. They have
other times they have independence and are allowed to walk alone. This is a family choice of time spent together at the beginning of a day.

- For 3 years, I have petitioned the City & PD on behalf of our Prospect / 15th St neighborhood. The City finally installed digital signs 2 years ago, one of which is always obscured by a tree. They have not installed sharpies, which was our minimum request (although, they were happy to do so downtown). Likewise, they would not install an East-West crosswalk despite the numerous occasions of children and adults playing “chicken” with speeding cars, particularly in the morning (often with parents behind the wheel rushing kids to school). There are infrequent PD patrols at this time as well. Any changes to slow traffic would be helpful.

- Easily the biggest issues of getting to both schools from our house are the intersections of prospect and aviation and the intersection of pier and pch. Both these intersections have drivers who do not observe the walk sign and jump the green lights without fail 100% of the time

- NA should be an option. Our child has walked to school by herself since 3rd grade, so many of the questions don’t apply. For us it’s convenient- we live close by and both work, so her walking to school and back is convenient.

- I feel safer because of cross guards by the pier ave.

- Hermosa is a great place to walk!

- Love that Hermosa is a small town and all of the schools are central enough that kids can walk or walk part way. If parents struggle with the idea of letting kids walk. Maybe certain drop-off points can be established so groups can walk together

- I’d love to see a walking school bus or some organized escort system to allow kids to cross PCH.

- My daughter walks to school because it is a shorter distance because she can walk across the green belt and I would have to drive around it. She walks with a friend and prefers walking. She gets there faster than if I drove her.

- Keeping west gate locked and making kids coming from Loma drive go all the way around to the field entrance prevents my child from walking/skating to/from school

- None of the reasons in No 15 apply, its convenient for parent...

- We live pretty close to View. The main thing that makes me hesitant about allowing my daughter to walk alone is drivers on the road not being aware of pedestrians, and my daughter getting distracted in social environments if she hooked up with friends on the way to/from school, and also getting distracted and not coming home on her own. It would be hugely helpful to me if she could walk alone because she has a younger sister I will be driving to/from preschool 3 days a week, and she also naps which can be challenging with school pickup time.

- The primary concern for us is safety. The various developmental stages of each child play into our multi-faceted concerns. The number of blind spots present (blind driveways / parked cars / etc.), lack of traffic enforcement, and the general state of distracted driving that exists create an unsafe set of circumstances. That said for 2019-2020 school year our 4th grader will ride their bike/scooter to school escorted by a parent initially. Our
7th grader will walk/ride/bike to school. Our 2nd grader will scooter or walk. We want to do our part to encourage safe, independent choices for our kids while being mindful of the logistical limitations presented by Hb’s unique layout while respecting the twice daily impacts increased auto traffic present for the neighborhoods which are the home for our schools.

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- crossing guards at PCH do a great job and are needed for sure due to traffic and people running the red lights

- Question 15 is a required question but there is not option to select N/A so your results on this question are false.

- There no crossing guard at Gould and Ardmore/Valley. This is a very dangerous intersection to cross anytime.

- Let’s keep encouraging more kids to bike walk and skateboard. That said, kids riding e-bikes on the sidewalk along Ardmore seems really dangerous.

- All on #14 are answered “not sure”, as NA not avail....this question does not apply to us as we walk to school already. We take turns walking our son to school and back as we work from home & we enjoy walking together and talking about the day ahead or the day he’s had.

- There no crossing guard at Gould and Ardmore/Valley. This is a very dangerous intersection to cross anytime.
If I can get my daughter ready on time we walk or scooter to school. Often time the kids ride their bikes on the side walk on the way to school (from 8th Place north to Valley). I have been hit multiple times by a bikers or yelled at by a young kid to move while I walk. If there was a way to do a bike bath along Valley that would be very beneficial. I am concerned sometimes when my daughter rides her scooter and the kids on big bikes almost plow her over. Also, the crossing guard at the Post Office is AMAZING. So good at his job and watching the kids.

PCH is the biggest obstacle with the morning traffic from our house for my youngest child

Our son has a straightforward greenbelt walk with crossing guards (but I still walk him cross Ardmore in the am since people run the stop sign). I generally pick them up due to activities but like the option of him walking home some days with pick up conflicts

The logic of questions 13 and 14 is not clear. All of the items in Question 13 are factors for allowing or not allowing any child to walk from school. Question 14 requires answer for all of the “problems” even if I don’t see them as problems. I am not sure how to answer these questions.

I will be walking my children to school. I won’t let them walk alone because too many vagrants in Hermosa now and too many drivers on their phones and not paying attention.

My older daughter is going into 7th grade and so my son can now walk to Valley with her. View was too far and didn’t have a safe enough route along PCH. My son would like to ride his scooter to Valley, but I don’t feel comfortable with him crossing so many intersections alone. There needs to be more crossing guards especially along Ardmore. We have a guard at PCH and 8th, but not Ardmore and 8th

My daughter is very responsible and safe, so I trust her, but my 4th grade son isn’t quite as careful. I’m letting them walk together this coming year, but I’m still concerned about him paying attention. We really need more crossing guards along Ardmore and Valley especially at busy intersections such as 8th street. There should be mapped out safe routes to each school.

PLEASE have the city of Hermosa look at the sidewalks for safety issues. We will not allow our kids to ride on Valley/Ardmore - drivers are in too much of a hurry and are impatient. There is one spot on the west side of Valley, north of the school where there is a tree limb the kids must “duck under” to avoid hitting it. If they swerve to the left to avoid the limb the side walk is uneven and has a high potential for injury. I say this because I ride with my kids sometimes and I go out onto Valley to avoid potentially falling.

The crossing where the library and post office near Valley is an absolute nightmare. Seeing that cars seem to have a lot of difficulty understanding how 4 way Stops work in the first place, multiply that with kids walking and the fact that it’s a double 4 way stop set up, it’s a recipe for disaster. The HBPD needs to assign some traffic cops for those times to assist the crossing guards. The cars really don’t care and seem aggrivated that they have to stop and wait for kids.

they must bike/scooter because we both work full-time jobs

Must bike/scooter because both parents work full-time jobs
• My kids would love to ride bikes but it seems incredibly unsafe. Without a designated bike lane, I wouldn’t let them ride. I also feel unsafe with them walking to school in the morning because kids are rushing with bikes and skateboards sharing the sidewalks.
• View is on a big hill. Can’t ride bikes up
• My kids scooter or bike to school every day.
• My kids scooter or bike every day to Valley
• I think it’s already perfectly safe for Valley kids to walk to school already and have no issues with it.
• More crossing guards would be helpful. There are too many distracted drivers on the street.
• The crossing guards do not receive sufficient praise! They really are the key safety piece of the program. Any intersection on PCH is tough and thankfully HBSD has aggressive, safety first, guards looking out for the kids. Drivers should fear the Crossing Guard’s wrath.
• No thank you
• On rainy days this winter, child was driven to school because didn’t think it would be safe to bike. When children were at View School, we always drove since had to get to work right after drop off.
• We badly need a crossing guard at that crazy 5 way stop at the corner of Valley and Gould. In the morning drivers trying to get to work are aggressive and not paying attention to pedestrians. I walked to Valley school with our oldest and that intersection is truly unsafe.
• crossing PCH scares the hell out of me. It’s unlikely that I’ll ever let him do that alone, on foot.
• I have concerns that drivers may be texting
• I am a working parent so walking to school is not feasible on work days, I would be late every day. Parking is always an issue.
• If the North School was open I would let my kids walk/ride their bikes starting in 3rd grade.