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Dads Encouraged to Walk Children to School September 22

Fathers Walk goal, to bring dad into educational journey.

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Commission on Fatherhood is inviting dads and other male mentors to build relationships with teachers and other school personnel by walking their child to school September 22, 2022, during the 17th Annual Fathers Walk.

“This is a wonderful way for dads to show their kids that education is important,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “Fathers can have a tremendous impact on their child’s life by being actively involved with their children’s schools, teachers, and administrators.”

The Fathers Walk started in 2006 in Cuyahoga County and later expanded to Summit, Portage, Lorain, and Stark counties. This year, electronic letters and flyers were distributed to schools throughout Ohio to increase participation.

“The value of having fathers involved in their children’s education cannot be underestimated,” said Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Matt Damschroder. “If it is not feasible to walk, driving them, picking them up, and meeting their teachers are great ways to become part of a child’s educational experience.

Commission on Fatherhood Director Kimberly Dent said fathers and male mentors who join the Fathers Walk are invited to take this pledge:

- I am responsible for the education of my child.
- I will encourage all children to do their best every day at school.
- I will speak to my child about the value of learning and the importance of reaching your potential.
- I will help with schoolwork and review assignments for completion.
- I will praise my child when he/she does well in school.
- I will speak with my child’s teachers and support them in educating my child.
- I will teach my child the value of education and the value of family.
- I will work with my child’s mother or guardian to achieve the best academic and social outcomes for my child even if I do not live with my child

For more information on how you, a father you know, or your school can participate in the #FathersWalk, visit: fatherhood.ohio.gov.

