



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers:

The Newspapers In Education (NIE) Program, sponsored by the Nebraska Press Association, makes significant contributions to education in our school districts. Its recent publication, *Safe Routes News You Can Use*, will be available for you to download soon. You are encouraged to take advantage of this free resource and distribute a *Safe Routes* copy to each third- and fourth-grade student. Please provide each third- and fourth-grade teacher a copy of this letter as well.

This supplement was developed by Safe Routes Nebraska, a program of the Nebraska Department of Roads, to be a convenient resource for you to use with your students. *Safe Routes News You Can Use* was designed as a fun and interactive way to inform students about the importance of regular exercise and staying safe while they walk and bike.

Reading is at the heart of all learning, and by developing a newspaper-reading habit, students can become lifelong learners. Research has shown that newspapers can be used to reinforce school curriculum, develop students' creative abilities, improve comprehension and vocabulary development, and motivate students to a greater understanding of the world around them.

I know that teachers appreciate the curriculum activities that special NIE publications, such as the upcoming *Safe Routes News You Can Use*, generate for reading and literacy initiatives for children and parents. Those of us who have the good fortune to be well educated cannot imagine what life would be like without the ability to read. Getting lost in a good book, engaging a youngster in a story, and reading a newspaper everyday are joyous experiences. And when children are taking advantage of these experiences, everyone wins.

Each of us has a stake in producing a population of readers. I thank you for all you do to support the educational endeavors of the Newspapers In Education Program. Your commitment to NIE is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Marge Harouff, Ed.D.
Deputy Commissioner

State Board of Education

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