



Department of Health and Human Services  
Fatherhood Initiative

August 18, 2016

Dear School Superintendents, Principals and Other Administrators:

Did your school district participate in the **Fathers Walk** event last year? If you did then you know the positive message of support for education sent by fathers, stepfathers, and father figures across Cuyahoga County on the same day! For the upcoming school year **Fathers Walk** will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2016. On that day schools throughout Cuyahoga County will join in "**Fathers Walk 2016**" which encourages fathers, grandfathers and other father figures to walk their children to school.

Many fathers walk their children to school every day throughout the school year but on this day they are encouraged to join other fathers in a visible, productive demonstration of encouragement for their children related to education. Just picture thousands of fathers walking children to school because fathers realize that education is an integral part of the future of their children. In addition, **Fathers Walk** creates family support and a celebration of education like no other event of its kind. Research shows father involvement is essential to promoting good classroom behavior, better grades, and higher educational attainment levels.

This event is part of a national event taking place during the first month of the school year by Fathers in more than 750 cities throughout the United States. The event is simple – fathers escort the child to school by walking them to the door and possibly meeting the principal and teachers. We would like each school to greet the Fathers and share with them opportunities to be more involved in the education of their child and school. Some schools include breakfast for dads, special workshops, or other initiatives with their **Fathers Walk** event.

**Fathers Walk 2016** in Cuyahoga County is sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative, Passages Inc., Healthy Fathering Collaborative and all those who believe that a father's involvement in his children's lives is very important.

The children and families of your district need your support for this event so please complete the enclosed participation form and return it. You can make this event a success. Each school will be included in the list of supporting schools which will be provided to the media of Cuyahoga County. Also, please let us know if you will be providing a special program for your fathers – some schools have "donuts for dads" or a "read a book to your child" program. We appreciate all suggestions about how schools in your district can make fathers feel welcome and more involved in education.

You may direct any questions to me at 216-698-2869; Dr. B.A. Moore, Executive Director of Passages, at 216-881-6776; or Theresa Thomas at 216-348-3967 and via email at [theresa.thomas@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:theresa.thomas@jfs.ohio.gov). Please consider joining us on September 22, 2016 for **Fathers Walk** – an important walk for education and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Aldonis C. Grimes  
Director, Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative