



What is *Safe Routes to School*?

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is designed to increase the number of children walking and biking to school. It is a collaborative effort by schools, communities and local governments to create healthy lifestyles for children and a safer and cleaner environment for everyone.

Potential benefits include:

- Health and fitness
- Traffic relief
- Environmental awareness and
- Increased safety



Safe Routes to School has five components:



- **Encouragement** – events, contests and promotional materials encourage children and parents to try walking and biking.
- **Education** – Classroom lessons on traffic safety, health and the environment teach the skills necessary to navigate through busy streets and encourage children to be active participants in the program.
- **Engineering** – Partnering with engineering experts, SR2S assists in examining the physical barriers that hamper safely navigating to school and provides tools to create a safer environment.
- **Enforcement** – Partnering to increase the police presence around schools promotes traffic safety. SR2S has the best tools in the country to assist in developing an effective traffic safety program.
- **Evaluation** – Collecting data from students and parents helps to track effectiveness and learn how to improve the program.

Why *Safe Routes to School* is Important

Walking or biking to school gives children a taste of freedom and responsibility and allows them to enjoy the fresh air and arrive at school alert, refreshed and ready to start the day.

- In 1969, 50% of all children walked to school.
- Today, only 15% of America's children walk or bike to school.
- Locally, 21-27% of morning traffic results from driving children to school.

A successful *SR2S* program improves the health and safety of students and the surrounding neighborhood. Studies have shown that children who are physically active perform better academically. *SR2S* can also satisfy the physical activity component of a school's Wellness Policy.



Cities with *SR2S* programs have experienced reduced traffic congestion, reduced collisions around schools, and decreased speed in residential neighborhoods.

What *Safe Routes to School* Offers

- Technical assistance with start-up and promotional materials
- Training
 - o A toolkit with templates and forms
 - o Train the trainers – We assist your champions and staff in learning the basic steps of developing a *Safe Routes to School* program
 - o Community training – We help your gather the right stakeholders for teaching the community about *Safe Routes to School*
- Classroom lessons and
- Ongoing consultation

OneBayArea

SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



Federal Funding for *Safe Routes to School*

In 2005, funding for *Safe Routes to School* was included in the federal transportation bill - the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act. Federal funding from FY 2005 to 2009 was \$612 million.

- The Federal SRTS Program is administered by each state Dept. of Transportation with funding allotted annually to each state.
- Some parameters are spelled out in the federal legislation, however states may structure their programs to best meet their needs.
- Federal funding alone cannot meet all the needs of communities. Most programs can benefit from a mixture of federal, state, local and private funding.

National Center Resources

- The National Center maintains a comprehensive list of federally-funded SRTS projects. The searchable list includes specifics such as: project location, funding amount, brief description of the project, schools impacted, and the year the project award was announced.
- The National Center compiles a summary of the status of states' programs, including available and announced funding, in a quarterly Program Tracking Brief.
- For more information, visit www.saferoutesinfo.org.

