



# Children Deserve Safe Routes to School

and Communities Across the US are Making it Happen

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs use a comprehensive approach to make school routes safe for children to walk and bicycle. Community leaders, parents and schools are using these programs to better the lives of their children one step at a time.

## Success

A successful Safe Routes to School program is a sustained effort that involves bringing the right mix of people together, identifying the issues and finding ways to improve walking and bicycling conditions. Safe Routes to School programs work to...

- assess the safety of school travel routes
- encourage more walking and bicycling to school through fun promotions and events
- make engineering changes such as building sidewalks, improving streets crossings and training crossing guards
- educate students, parents and drivers about safe travel
- promote safe walking and bicycling throughout the community

Issue	Why Safe Routes Works
Traffic clogs the roads around schools, creating a difficult and unsafe environment for walking and bicycling	Leaving the car at home reduces the traffic surrounding schools and improves air quality
Parents and children are walking and bicycling in unsafe conditions	Safety is the core component of all good SRTS programs
More children are becoming less physically active	Walking and bicycling to and from school can contribute towards the development of a lifelong habit of physical activity

## Start Now

New legislation has recognized the value of Safe Routes to School programs and is providing funding for States to establish programs. To learn more about Safe Routes to School, please visit the National Center for Safe Routes to School Web site at [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)

# SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School



## International Walk to School

Many established Safe Routes to School programs have been launched as a result of Walk to School events. Traditionally held in October, Walk to School events offer communities an excellent launch for a Safe Routes to School program conducted throughout the year. Please visit [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org) for more information and resources for Walk to School events in the U.S.



## Promising Examples from Across the Country

- The city of Phoenix, Arizona works with parents and schools to create routes to school maps used to show parents and students the walking routes and crossing locations
- Frequent Walker cards used in Elmhurst, Illinois encourage students to walk or bicycle to school as they received prizes for hole punches in their cards.
- Residents in East Cleveland, Ohio, sought to change an unsafe pedestrian environment by improving and adding signals, signs and cross walks
- Schools in Marin County, California offer an impressive array of walking and bicycling opportunities, leading to an increase in the number of children walking and bicycling

For more examples of how communities are making it happen with Safe Routes to School, please visit [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org)

## Safe Routes Resources

The National Center for Safe Routes to School offers a host of tools and resources for program coordinators to establish, implement and promote their SRTS programs, including:

- SRTS-related education and promotional materials
- A comprehensive online guide offering a variety of information and materials needed to create a SRTS program
- Training options ranging from a multi-day course to providing a speaker for a conference
- An online database with information about State SRTS programs, as well as local projects and activities that receive federal funding
- Technical assistance resources to answer SRTS inquiries

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