

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership



Helping shape the national Safe Routes to School program

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is a network of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) movement in the United States.

Members include AARP, the American Heart Association, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the PTA, the National Association for Health and Fitness, and more than 350 other groups. The partnership sets goals, shares best practices, secures project funding, provides technical assistance, and offers policy input to agencies that are implementing SRTS programs.



www.pedbikeimages.org/Cynecki

*"We can change the habits of an entire generation."
—U.S. Representative James Oberstar of Minnesota*

Federal funding available

The 2005 federal transportation law (SAFETEA-LU) authorized \$612 million for a national Safe Routes to School program. Federal SRTS grants are available through state Departments of Transportation (DOT) to build safer access to schools, and to run education and encouragement programs that promote walking and bicycling.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership provides resources and guidance to help communities make the best use of this federal money to implement Safe Routes to School efforts at the state and local levels.

Many years in the making

The process of lobbying for federal funding and creating a national vision for Safe Routes to School began in 2000. By 2003, diverse groups throughout the country were collaborating on SRTS. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership launched in August 2005, thanks to money and support provided by the Bikes Belong Coalition.

*Joining the partnership is free!
Visit saferoutespartnership.org.*

Safe Routes to School is good for kids, families, and our nation. It:

- increases physical activity
- promotes healthy lifestyles
- reduces traffic congestion
- improves public safety
- preserves the environment
- creates community partnerships

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership works to cultivate a national culture that encourages safe bicycling and walking to and from schools throughout the United States.

By joining the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, you can help change the habits of an entire generation of school children.



For more information, visit saferoutespartnership.org



Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Changing the habits of an entire generation



Photo compliments of Texas Bicycle Coalition



The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is hosted by the Bikes Belong Foundation, which is dedicated to children's bicycle programs and bicycle safety.

Safe Routes to School: An International Movement

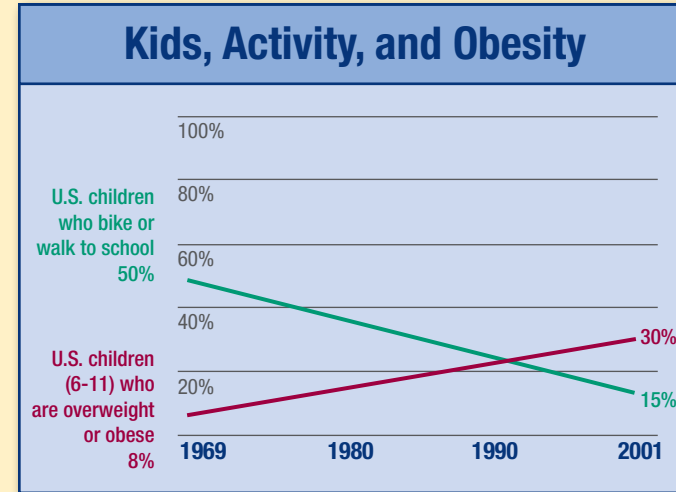
Getting kids to school safely

Safe Routes to School is an international movement designed to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to walk and bicycle to school. Safe Routes to School is helping address critical issues related to children's health, traffic congestion, public safety, and the environment.

A comprehensive approach

Safe Routes to School works at the community level and focuses on 5Es:

- **Evaluation:** Assessing neighborhood conditions to determine needs, and measuring the effectiveness of efforts to increase bicycling and walking
- **Education:** Teaching parents and students about safe biking, walking, and driving
- **Encouragement:** Promoting special events and contests to encourage children and their families to walk or bike to school
- **Engineering:** Building infrastructure such as crosswalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks
- **Enforcement:** Ensuring people obey traffic laws, such as yielding to pedestrians and adhering to speed limits



Solution to a crisis

Today's children are less active than previous generations, which can lead to obesity and related health problems. In addition, parents driving their children to school comprise 20-30% of morning traffic in many U.S. communities.

Safe Routes to School gets people out of their cars and into the neighborhood, helping them lead healthier, happier lives.

What You Can Do to Advance Safe Routes to School

As an organization

- Join the Safe Routes to School National Partnership at saferoutespartnership.org (it's free).
- Submit a grant request to your state Department of Transportation (DOT) for SRTS educational activities.
- Find other organizations working on SRTS in your state and cooperate to advance policy changes.
- Collaborate with your DOT on implementing SRTS.
- Follow "individual" action steps (listed to the right).

As an individual

- Give a presentation about SRTS at your city council or school and find an elected official to help you champion the effort.
- Form a Safe Routes to School team at your school to create a long-range plan to get more children bicycling and walking; focus on the 5Es for SRTS.
- Survey parents to learn their specific safety concerns.
- Launch a Walk and Bike to School Day at your school.
- Organize an "audit" to assess the routes to school and the obstacles to walking and bicycling.
- Work with your city to apply for a SRTS grant from your state Department of Transportation to improve facilities and education.

Learn more and find sample presentation materials at saferoutespartnership.org.



Photo compliments of Texas Bicycle Coalition

State Network Project

In 2007, the Safe Routes to School National Partnership initiated the State Network Project to establish SRTS networks in nine states and the District of Columbia. The project brings together professionals from many fields—health, education, youth services, smart growth, and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy—to work with state DOTs and others on SRTS efforts.

Made possible by a generous grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the project is working to help the new networks make the best use of available federal SRTS funds. The project is also informing policy-makers and community leaders about ways to improve walking and bicycling conditions and locate schools in walkable neighborhoods instead of outlying areas.

A primary goal of the project is to reach children at highest risk for obesity. Locations were selected based on need and their capacity to support the program. They are:

- California
- District of Columbia
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- New York
- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Virginia

The SRTS National Partnership is seeking matching funds for this project. To learn more, visit saferoutespartnership.org.

Partnership Resources

The following resources will help you work with your local and state governments to implement a Safe Routes to School program. Visit saferoutespartnership.org to access:

- **Safe Routes to School E-News:** A monthly newsletter of SRTS happenings
- **Getting Started Locally:** Guidance on how to start a local Safe Routes to School program
- **State Web Pages:** State-by-state information about available funding, application guidelines, project awards, success stories, SRTS partners, and more
- **State Policies:** Best practices on complete streets, school siting, curriculum, and wellness policies
- **Federal Legislation Updates:** The latest on the transportation bill, climate legislation, and more

