

# SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



CREATING HEALTHY  
SCHOOLS AND  
COMMUNITIES



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# What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?

**An approach that promotes walking, bicycling and rolling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and incentives.**

Goals:

- 1) To increase the share of students using active transportation.
- 2) To reduce traffic accidents for students using active transportation.

**Safe Routes to School Programs reduce the number of children who are hit by cars.**





**Active transportation  
contributes to a  
healthy lifestyle.**



**Active transportation  
fosters independence.**

**Active transportation prepares students for learning.**





**Reduces green house  
gas emissions**



**Builds community**

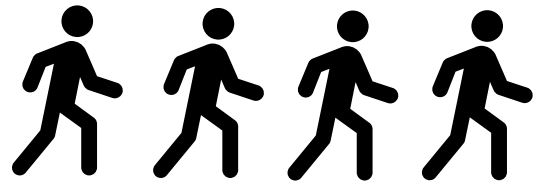


**Reduces  
congestion**



**Saves money**

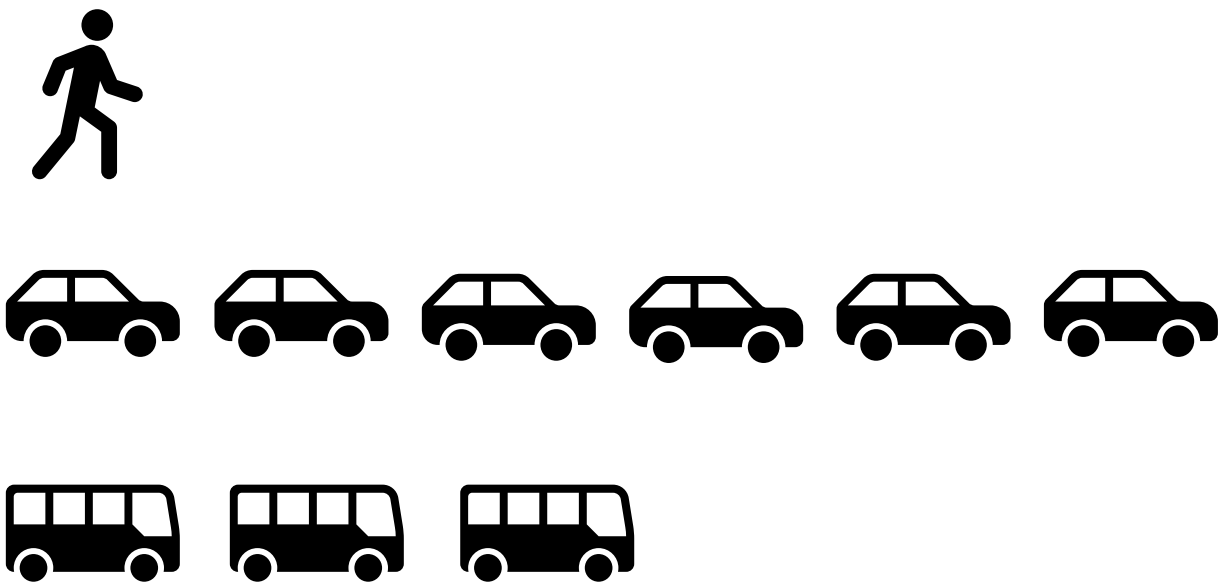
Almost 50% of students walked or biked to school 55 year ago



1969



That number is now estimated at less than 10%



2009



Barrier	Percentage of parents identifying with the barrier
Distance to school:	61.5
Traffic-related danger:	30.4
Weather:	18.6
Crime danger:	11.7
Opposing school policy:	6.0
Other reasons (not identified):	15.0

# HOW? 6 Es

Safe Routes Partnership, a national thought leader, defines a comprehensive, integrated Safe Routes to School program as one with six key components.

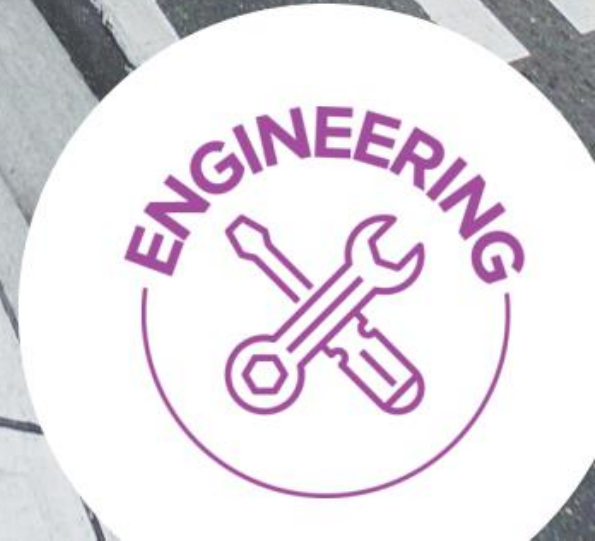


# ENGINEERING

Creating physical improvements to streets and neighborhoods that make walking and bicycling safer, more comfortable, and more convenient.



Photo credit: Toole Design



# Applying Engineering to your Safe Routes To School Program



# EQUITY

Ensuring that Safe Routes to School initiatives are benefiting all demographic groups, with particular attention to ensuring safe, healthy, and fair outcomes for low-income students, students of color, students of all genders, students with disabilities, and others.



**SF BIKE & ROLL WEEK • 5/10 – 5/14/2021**

Semana para ir en bicicleta o rodando أسبوع بايك آند رول

騎自行車和踏滑板周 Linggo ng pagbibisikleta

[sfbike.org/bikeandrollsf](http://sfbike.org/bikeandrollsf) #bikeandrollsf



# Applying Equity to your Safe Routes To School Program

Ensure promotional and/or safety materials are **multilingual**, reflecting the diversity of students and their families

Host a walk audit with neighborhood families to identify safe, preferred walking, biking, and rolling routes to school

Provide district-wide or individual school maps of preferred routes that account for **students of all physical abilities**.

**Arrival and dismissal** plans should incorporate all modes of transportation to ensure safe travel for all students.

# ENGAGEMENT

All Safe Routes to School initiatives should begin by listening to students, families, teachers, and school leaders and working with existing community organizations, and build intentional, ongoing engagement opportunities into the program structure.



Photo credit: Health by Design





# Applying Engagement to your Safe Routes To School Program

Find ways to get the community involved.

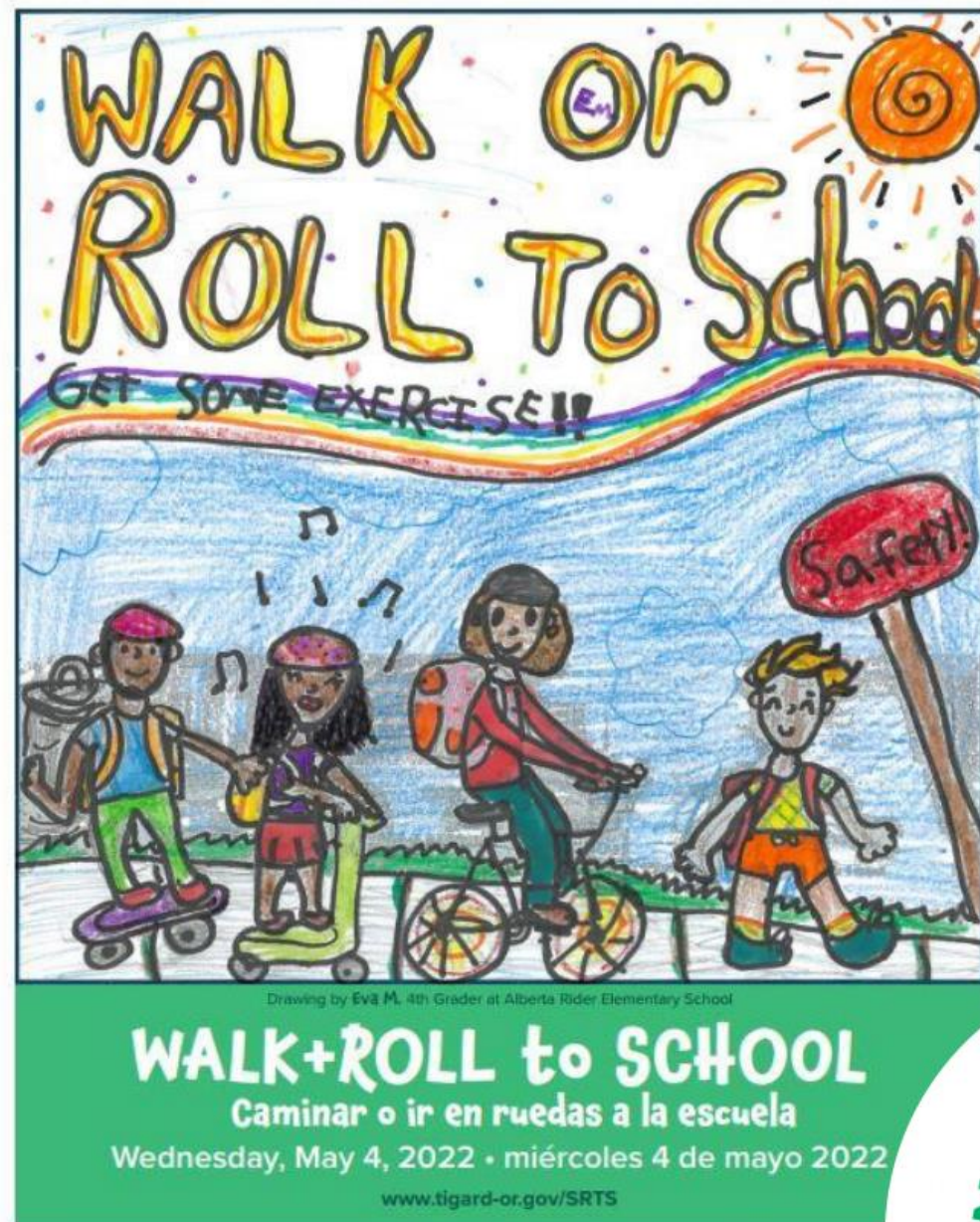
-surveys, focus groups, invitations

-shared decision making



# ENCOURAGEMENT

Generating enthusiasm and increased walking and bicycling for students through events, activities, and programs.



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U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration



# Applying Encouragement to your Safe Routes To School Program

Organizing events for “Walk to School Day” or “Bike to School Day”.

Creating walking school buses and bike buses that allow kids to walk and bicycle together.

Utilizing contests, mileage clubs, or other incentives.



# EDUCATION

Providing students and the community with the skills to walk and bicycle safely and teaching them about the broad range of transportation choices.



Photo credit: City of San Pablo



# Applying Education to your Safe Routes To School Program

SRTS maps with suggested routes to walk and bicycle to school.

School bicycle rodeo that teaches safe bicycling skills.

Curriculum, seminars or events focused on the benefits of walking and bicycling for students and parents/guardians.

Traffic safety education.

Public education for safety improvements.



# EVALUATION

Assessing which approaches are more or less successful and ensuring that programs and initiatives are supporting equitable outcomes.



Photo credit: University of Alabama/Lakeshore Research Collaborative



# Applying Evaluation to your Safe Routes To School Program

A school walking and bicycling audit and a school travel plan that includes specific goals.

Bicycle and pedestrian counts that show bicycling and walking rates over time.

Surveys on perceptions and attitudes from parents/guardians.

Data about vehicle crashes near the school, traffic speeds or traffic volumes.



# How to start a SRTS program

**Form a SRTS committee**

**Hold a kick-off meeting**

**Analyze existing conditions, identify issues**

**Identify solutions (prioritize improvements)**

**Make a plan!**



# Include in the plan:

**List of projects: education/encouragement/engineering**

**Long and short-term priorities and goals**

**Partnerships and funding**

**Evaluate, assess, adjust, and repeat**

# More SRTS webinars

February 7, 2024- Walk and Bike  
to School Days

May 1, 2024- Setting up a Bike  
Bus Program



# Resources

[SRTS Guide: Home \(saferoutesinfo.org\)](https://saferoutesinfo.org)

[Safe Routes to School | Safe Routes Partnership](#)

[SRTS Curriculum \(ny.gov\)](https://ny.gov)

[Recycle-A-Bicycle - GObike \(gobikebuffalo.org\)](https://gobikebuffalo.org)