



HOW TO LAUNCH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



The City of Austin wants to make it easy for your school to implement a vibrant, sustainable **Safe Routes to School Program**.

ABOUT US

The City of Austin's **Safe Routes to School** (SRTS) Program educates students on pedestrian and bicycle safety and provides crossing guards at crucial intersections. The program aims to increase the number of students who walk and bike to school by tackling the barriers that prevent them from doing so. Our goal is to empower the community by making walking and biking to school safe, convenient and fun for students and families!

The City of Austin Public Works Department supports this effort by employing 230 crossing guards and crossing guard supervisors, stationed at 90 elementary schools in 7 school districts! Our talented Safety Trainer Team visits schools annually to instruct children on how to safely cross the street, ride a bike, or take the bus to school. This free training is available to all local elementary schools in English and Spanish.

CLEAR BENEFITS

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF KIDS WALKING & BIKING TO SCHOOL HAS CLEAR BENEFITS:

IMPROVED STUDENT HEALTH



GREATER PERFORMANCE & FOCUS IN THE CLASSROOM



REDUCED TRAFFIC & AIR POLLUTION





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CLASSROOM WALKING COMPETITIONS

This simple encouragement strategy keeps active transportation on students' minds each day. Individual students or entire classrooms can compete for the most active commutes.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Approval & support from school administration
- Teacher participation (morning hand tally)
- Incentives (stickers, classroom privileges, a trophy)

SRTS CAN PROVIDE:

- Guidance on developing contests
- Training for teachers & school staff
- Templates for flyers & educational materials

WALK & BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

A one-time event is easy to put together and an ideal strategy to introduce your school community to Safe Routes and to generate excitement for walking and biking to school. It can also be the launching point for a long-term Safe Routes initiative on your campus.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Approval & support from school administration
- Outreach & marketing to ensure participation
- Safe gathering location & mapped safe route (distance of about 1/2 mile recommended)
- Volunteers to supervise (1 adult per 6-10 children)

SRTS CAN PROVIDE:

- Assistance with safe route planning & mapping
- Training for organizers/volunteers
- Templates for flyers/educational materials

WALKING SCHOOL BUSES & BIKE TRAINS

This is a more complex, deeper impact strategy. Walking School Buses (WSB) is a daily or weekly program, led by volunteers or paid staff, with a single route or multiple "buses" from different locations.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Approval & support from school administration
- Team of dedicated volunteers with committed WSB coordinator or funding for paid WSB monitor
- Outreach & marketing to ensure participation
- Defined starting point, bus stops, and mapped route

SRTS CAN PROVIDE:

- Assistance with safe route planning & mapping
- Training for organizers/volunteers
- Templates for flyers & educational materials



**SUPPORTING THE
HUMAN POWER
IN YOU**

For more information about
Safe Routes to School visit
AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/SAFEROUTES

