



# Children Deserve Safe Routes to School

and Communities are Making it Happen in Oregon

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 how to set up a Safe Routes to School program, contact Oregon's Safe Routes to School Coordinator:

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Or visit the Oregon Safe Routes to School Web site at  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/saferoutes.shtml>

**SafeRoutes**  
 Oregon 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.walknbike.org](http://www.walknbike.org) for more information and resources for Walk to School events in Oregon.



## Promising Examples from Across Oregon

- Over 65 schools and 12,500 kids walked and biked to school during Oregon's 2005 Walk + Bike to School Day in October.
- In Ashland, middle and elementary schools provide an intensive bicycle safety education course to students each year.
- In Eugene-Springfield, Commuter Solution's Smart Ways to School Program provides free services that help parents form carpools and organize student walking and biking groups.
- In Corvallis, a Safe Routes to School Task Force has brought together officials from the city, school district and health department, and with information gathered from parent surveys the Task Force is looking for ways to improve traffic flow around schools.
- The Golden Sneaker Award was given to SE Portland fifth grade students who "virtually" walked across the USA and back in one school year.

## National 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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# SafeRoutes

National Center for Safe Routes to School

