

10 Easy Steps for making streets safer for walking to school

• **Rearrange the furniture**

Poorly placed benches, trees and utility poles can become sidewalk obstructions.

• **Mark the crosswalk**

Marked crosswalks can improve safety and emphasize the walking path at an intersection.

• **Move the stop line**

Stop lines for vehicles are usually painted four feet in advance of each crosswalk. Moving them back a few feet more can improve safety.

• **Timing is everything**

Traffic signals should give pedestrians enough time to cross the street. Remember that children need more time than adults.

• **Walking: just do it**

Given the chance, children would rather walk, skateboard, or ride their bikes to school than be driven by their parents.

• **Wait for the green**

Prohibiting right turns on red decreases pedestrian conflicts and crashes with turning vehicles.

• **Go on a road diet**

Re-striping a road can convert car lanes to a sidewalk, landscaped median or bike lane. Doing this can reduce pedestrians crossing distance and vehicle speed.

• **Count down to safety**

Countdown signals let pedestrians know how much time remains for them cross the street.

• **Let people go first**

Pedestrian signals can be timed to give pedestrians five extra seconds to establish a presence in the intersection crosswalk before the light turns green for vehicles.

• **Coordinate the signals**

Coordinating closely spaced traffic signals allows vehicles to move more safely and efficiently through an area.

Why should I support Safe Routes to School?

Here are a few good reasons to support SRTS.

• **For safety**

Traffic clogs the roads around schools, creating unsafe conditions. Sadly, when children are involved in pedestrian crashes near schools, the vehicles are often driven by parents.

• **For healthy children**

In the last 30 years the percentage of overweight children in the U.S. has doubled for ages 6-11. Instilling good habits of nutrition and physical activity in children can prevent obesity.

• **For a healthy environment**

By encouraging walking and biking to school both motor vehicle traffic and unhealthy auto emissions are significantly reduced around schools.

Make it happen

- Form a school, community, town partnership
- Develop a school travel plan
- Hold a "Walk to School Day"
- Teach pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Organize a "walking school bus"

Apply Today

Any school, government or community organization may apply for federal SRTS funding through the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for projects within two miles of a primary and/or middle school (K-8).

Applications are available online at www.njdot.nj.gov/community/srts

For more information about New Jersey's Safe Routes to School program, e-mail srts@njdot.nj.gov

NEW JERSEY

Safe Routes to School



New Jersey Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

New Jersey's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is part of a nationwide effort to encourage safe walking and bicycling to school. New Jersey will receive \$15 million in federal funds for this program.

Three school/community teams are participating in New Jersey's SRTS Demonstration Programs. Exploring effective ways for public schools and towns to collaborate are:

- Ashbrook Elementary School
Lumberton (Burlington County)
- John F. Kennedy Elementary School
Jamesburg (Middlesex County)
- Rand Elementary School
Montclair (Essex County)

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL STRATEGIES

Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Encouragement

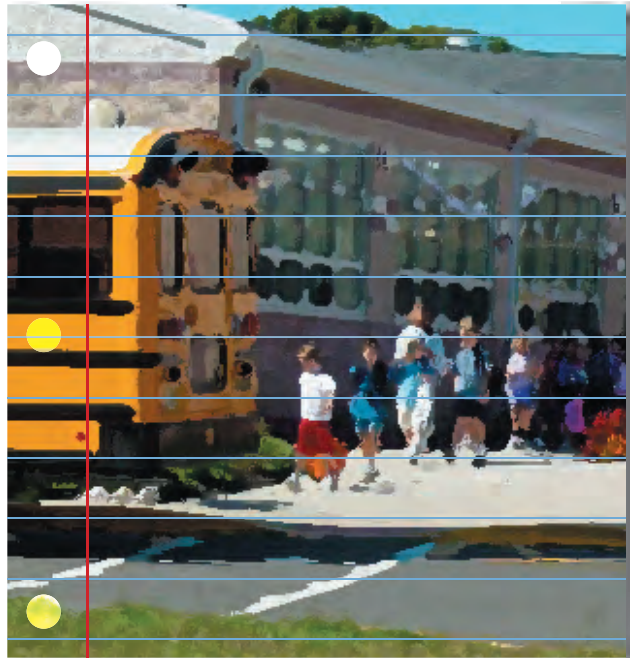


Engineering

This strategy focuses on operational and physical improvements around the school to reduce speed and pedestrian/vehicle conflicts such as traffic calming devices and school zone designations. It also may include the improvement or creation of safe, accessible crossings, sidewalks, walkways, bikeways, trails and bicycle parking facilities.

Enforcement

A partnership with local enforcement is key to achieving this goal. Law enforcement professionals will ensure that traffic laws, especially speeding and yielding to pedestrians,



are obeyed near schools. They may initiate a crossing guard program and sponsor activities such as bicycle rodeos, public awareness campaigns and crosswalk enforcement.

Education

Educational SRTS programs are geared to teaching children and parents about a broad range of transportation choices, including lifetime bicycling and walking safety skills and driver safety.

Encouragement

Activities and events that promote bicycling and walking to school will encourage more children and parents to do so.

