

## **Press Release**

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Alameda County Students to Participate in International Walk and Roll to School on October 6

Alameda County is hosting this international annual event to encourage students to explore different transportation choices that reduce their carbon footprint, while remaining flexible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. –** 114 Alameda County schools are registered to join in the fun and enjoy the benefits of taking a healthy route to school on <u>International Walk and Roll to School Day (IWR2SD)</u>.

The big celebration, which is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, encourages students to walk, bike, scoot, skate, use mobility devices, ride the bus, or share a ride, and is part of an effort to make our streets safer, reduce traffic, improve air quality, and provide a fun opportunity to exercise.

International Walk and Roll to School Day is a part of the <u>Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S)</u>

<u>Program</u>, which promotes active and shared commutes to school. Students of all ages, caregivers, and school faculty and staff who live far from school are encouraged to participate by either trying transit, coordinating a carpool, or parking a few blocks away from school and walking to school together.

"Following the creative ways students maintained excitement for and participated in last year's virtual version of International Walk and Roll to School Day makes me even more excited to see the energy participants bring for this year's event," said Alameda CTC Safe Routes to Schools Program Manager Denise Turner. "Time and again, the Safe Routes to Schools Program has seen International Walk and Roll to School Day prove to be an excellent way to increase active behavior while educating students with lessons that will last, we hope, a lifetime."



The morning of the event day, participating students will arrive at school and report the mode of transportation they used by adding stickers to their IWR2SD classroom charts. Schools will submit their event data, such as the number of students who walked, rolled (using bikes, skates, scooters, wheelchairs and other mobility devices), took shared transportation, carpooled, or were driven by a family member, to their SR2S site coordinators by Monday, October 11. The event data and highlights will be published on the SR2S website on Monday, November 1.

Media can visit <a href="https://alamedacountysr2s.org/our-services/plan-an-event/iwr2sd/">https://alamedacountysr2s.org/our-services/plan-an-event/iwr2sd/</a> for more information and follow our virtual 2021 International Walk and Roll to School Day event hashtag, #WalkandRoll21. To engage with the event, all media inquiries, including requests for in-person attendance, should be directed to info@alamedacountysr2s.org.

Please note: Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools is closely following COVID-19 recommended best practices and, for the health and safety of school communities, may transition this event from in-person to hybrid or fully virtual based on public health guidance. If that happens, updated information will be posted on the International Walk and Roll to School Day webpage.

#### **About the Alameda County Transportation Commission**

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Alameda CTC administers the county's Safe Routes to Schools Program and provides most of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales tax Measures B and BB, which were approved by 81.5 percent of county voters in 2000, and more than 70 percent of voters in 2014, respectively. Visit <u>Alameda CTC's website</u> to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

### **About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools**

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive and effective approach to getting more kids biking, rolling, and walking safely to school. It provides kids and their parents with skills, encouragement, and inspiration through a range of activities, events, and lessons, while also addressing local pedestrian, bicycle and personal safety concerns. Operating since 2006, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure B and Measure BB sales taxes, and regional, state, and federal funds, serving more than 250 schools throughout the county. Visit the <u>Safe Routes to School website</u> to learn more.