



# Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

FEBRUARY 2018

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

"Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities" is the mission of the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program. Alameda CTC organizes and supports educational activities that encourage families to safely walk, bike, carpool and take transit to school. Schools throughout the county participate in the program, which keeps students safe and healthy, and eases traffic congestion in the areas surrounding schools.

Each participating school is assigned a site coordinator to answer questions and help determine the best way to tailor SR2S to the school's needs. Through community SR2S Task Force meetings, schools strategize and coordinate events and scheduling, and receive free incentives for countywide events like International Walk and Roll to School Day.

## RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

- The online [Resource Center](http://alamedacountysr2s.org) (alamedacountysr2s.org) has materials and templates to download and help schools get started, schedule activities and find information about upcoming countywide events and Task Force meetings.
- Educational activities that schools can schedule:
  - Bicycle Rodeos (elementary schools)
  - Pedestrian Rodeos (all grade levels)
  - BikeMobile Repair Van (all grade levels)
  - Rock the Block: A Walk & Roll Musical Assembly (elementary schools)
  - Step Up Assembly (middle schools)
  - Drive Your Bike P.E. Program (middle and high schools)
  - Family Biking Workshops (families with children able to ride a bike)

The Alameda County SR2S Program promotes safe and healthy transportation choices for parents and children throughout Alameda County.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Increases the number of children walking and biking to school, thereby reducing children's risk of obesity and associated health problems.
- Cuts down on driving trips to school, which account for 21 percent of all morning traffic.
- Enhances safety in the areas around schools.
- Reduces traffic congestion and pollution.



Students walk together in a Walking School Bus at Achieve Academy in Oakland, Calif.



## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), which manages the program’s three main elements.

- **Education and outreach:** Alameda CTC works directly with schools to implement the program, develop outreach and communication strategies to encourage students and families to use active and green modes of transportation, integrate SR2S program activities into schools through policies and curriculum, and support task forces that guide program implementation in each part of the county.
- **Direct safety training:** Interactive educational activities and events such as rodeos, assemblies and physical education classes focus on direct safety training for students. They teach students skills such as bike repair, safe biking and walking skills, and safe use of other green modes of transportation.
- **Annual site assessments and evaluation:** After observing and reviewing existing school access conditions and infrastructure with local stakeholders during site assessments, Alameda CTC recommends measures to increase safe, multimodal access to school. Annual program evaluation also leads to a process of continuous improvement.

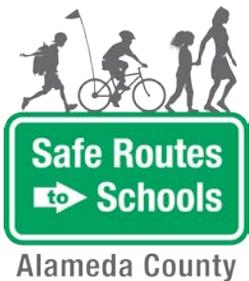


Thousand of students biked to school on Bike to School Day, May 11, 2017.

## PROGRAM COVERAGE

Previously, the Alameda County SR2S Program had a strong focus on growth and expansion. While the program strives to continue expanding, the goal is to grow in a manner that increases the geographic and demographic equity of the reach

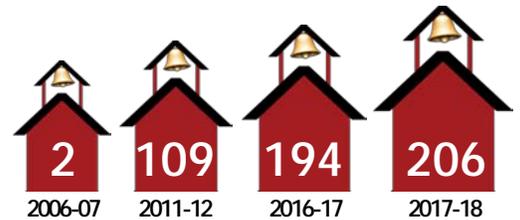
of SR2S and activities. An outcome of the 2016-17 evaluation is the recommendation to thoroughly evaluate the existing program reach, identify where current gaps exist and work with local officials to bring new schools into the program and give them the support and resources they need to thrive.



Note: Information on this fact sheet is subject to periodic updates.

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- In 2016-2017, 72 percent of schools in the SR2S Program held three or more events, and 56 percent held five or more events.
- In March 2017, 98 SR2S schools participated in the Golden Sneaker Contest and competed to achieve the highest percent increase of students walking, cycling, skating or using shared rides to get to school.
- In May 2017, 130 SR2S schools participated in Bike to School Day.
- The BikeMobile, which provides free mobile bicycle repair services, made 123 visits between July 2016 and June 2017. Over 2,700 bikes were repaired in 2017.
- Participation in the Alameda County SR2S Program has grown to 206 schools through December 31, 2017, including 186 elementary and middle schools and 20 high schools.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming SR2S events, visit [www.alamedacountysr2s.org](http://www.alamedacountysr2s.org).



In addition to biking and walking, busing to school is a preferred mode of transportation for students.