



# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Winner Announced in the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Golden Sneaker Award

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif.** – The [Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools \(SR2S\) Program](#) is celebrating the success of one of its core countywide events—the Golden Sneaker Contest. At the Alameda County Transportation Commission's (Alameda CTC) April 28th meeting, Commission Chair and Emeryville Mayor John J. Bauters awarded the Platinum Sneaker Award to EnCompass Academy, which is located in East Oakland and part of the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). Chair Bauters and his fellow commissioners expressed congratulations to each school's winning classroom, to school staff for great participation and to the Safe Routes Program for delivering one of its core encouragement events for school aged youth.

*"The entire Commission applauds the effort that EnCompass Academy students and faculty put toward the Golden Sneaker Contest,"* said Commission Chair Bauters, Mayor of Emeryville, CA. *"They've raised the bar for all of Alameda County, and I look forward to seeing other schools rise to the challenge next year."*

Commission Vice Chair and AC Transit Board President Elsa Ortiz agreed and stated, *"I'm so proud of the students at EnCompass Academy, and of everyone who participated in this year's Golden Sneaker Contest."* Alameda CTC Executive Director Tess Lengyel added, *"This encouragement event is a joy to watch every year, and EnCompass Academy should take great pride in earning the countywide Platinum Sneaker award. I also congratulate all students across the county who participated in this event."*

The Golden Sneaker Contest is a popular annual tradition. This year, from February 28 through March 11, the contest mobilized over 15,000 students at 80 schools throughout Alameda County. During the contest, Alameda County students, classrooms and schools competed to see who could use active and shared transportation the most, receiving points every time they walked, rolled, bicycled, rode a scooter or skateboard, took transit or used a supportive mobility device such as a wheelchair. Teachers

polled their classrooms and tallied how many students used active and shared modes during the event week, and the classroom at each school with the highest rate of active travel was awarded the Golden Sneaker award.

Every year, the school with the highest average classroom participation in all of Alameda County receives the Platinum Sneaker Award. Congratulations again to Encompass Academy!

An average of 92 percent of EnCompass Academy students took an active or shared transportation option to school during the Golden Sneaker Contest! This included 14 classrooms and 314 students. Two classrooms, Ms. Coffield's kindergarten class and Ms. Sokol's 3rd grade class, tied with 99 percent participation! These two winning classrooms will be sharing EnCompass Academy's Golden Sneaker trophy this year. Special thanks go to EnCompass Academy's Safe Routes champion Dana Turner and school principal Minh-Tram Nguyen for bringing the Safe Routes Program and this wonderful event to their school!

#### **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 [Alameda CTC's website](#) to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### **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 [Safe Routes to School website](#) to learn more.

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