



# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Winner Announced in Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools' Golden Sneaker Contest for Students

*Contest recognizing school-aged students who choose active transportation, carpooling and supportive mobility devices mobilized nearly 16,000 students and 100 schools this year.*

**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 (Alameda CTC)'s April 27th meeting, Commission Chair and Emeryville Mayor John J. Bauters awarded the Platinum Sneaker to Berkeley Arts Magnet School, commonly referred to as BAM, which is located in Berkeley and part of the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD). Chair Bauters and his fellow commissioners also expressed congratulations to each school's winning classroom, school staff throughout Alameda County for great participation, and the SR2S Program in delivering one of its core encouragement events for school aged youth.

"This is such an important event to encourage early adoption of active and sustainable transportation choices," remarked Commission Chair Bauters. "Along with the entire Commission, I applaud the efforts of Berkeley Arts Magnet students, their caregivers, school staff and teachers to make healthy travel choices that reduce carbon emissions. I look forward to seeing other schools rise to the challenge next year."

Alameda CTC Executive Director Tess Lengyel added, "We know young people are more likely to make active transportation choices throughout their lives if they start early. The Golden Sneaker Contents puts a fun spin on important ways we can take care of ourselves and the environment. Congratulations to the Berkeley Arts Magnet School and all the students and schools across the county that participated in this event."

The Golden Sneaker Contest is a popular annual tradition administered by Alameda CTC's SR2S Program. The program is a comprehensive and proven approach to increase safe walking and biking to travel to school with the goals of reducing congestion and harmful pollutants around schools and increasing the safety and physical activity of students. This year nearly 100 schools registered for the event and participated between February 27th and March 10th. The contest mobilized nearly 16,000 school students throughout Alameda County into active travel for the trip to school.

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. The school with the highest average classroom participation in all of Alameda County receives the Platinum Sneaker Award.

An average of 74% of Platinum Sneaker-winning Berkeley Arts Magnet School students took an active or shared transportation option to school during the contest. This included 18 classrooms and approximately 380 students. The winning classroom was Ms. Rieger's first grade class, with 92% participation. Alameda CTC extends a special thank you to Berkeley Arts Magnet School Safe Routes champion Karmit Jacobson, and school principal Rene Molina for bringing the SR2S 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 provides most of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales tax Measure BB, which was approved by more than 70 percent of voters in 2014. 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 caretakers 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 administered by Alameda CTC and 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 270 schools throughout the county. Visit the [Safe Routes to Schools website](#) to learn more.

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