Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

AUGUST 2023

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Mission: Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program is an Alameda CTC program that organizes and supports activities that teach and encourage families to safely walk, bike, carpool, or take transit to school. Over 290 schools throughout the county participate in the program. SR2S programs and activities help keep students safe and healthy while also easing traffic congestion in the areas surrounding schools.

Each participating school is assigned a site coordinator who works closely with school staff and champions to strategize for and coordinate the program throughout the year. Schools also receive free materials for countywide events such as International Walk and Roll to School Day. Finally, both school representatives and students participate in task force meetings that help shape SR2S Program offerings.

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

➢ The online Resource Center (alamedacountysr2s.org) has materials and templates to download and helps schools get started, schedule activities and find information about upcoming countywide events and Task Force meetings.

➢ Schools are invited to schedule educational activities, including:
  o ACT Safely Rail Safety Program (all grade levels)
  o Bicycle Rodeos (elementary and middle schools)
  o BikeMobile visits (all grade levels)
  o Drive Your Bike 101 (middle and high schools)
  o Drive Your Bike 102 (high schools)
  o Pedestrian Rodeos (elementary schools)
  o Pedestrian Safety Workshops (elementary and middle schools)
  o Travel Training (middle and high schools)
  o Walk and Roll school assemblies

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, which can improve physical and mental health and academic performance.

➢ Enhances traffic safety along streets and sidewalks around schools.

➢ Reduces driving trips to school, which relieves congestion and reduces pollution.

➢ Builds community and raises awareness of environmental stewardship.

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

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), and the program's work falls into four main categories:

- **Encouragement events:** Throughout the school year, Alameda CTC organizes events that encourage students to walk and roll to school. There are three countywide events each year, smaller events that happen weekly and monthly at individual schools, and walking school buses and bike trains that happen daily.

- **Education and training:** The program provides free, interactive educational activities and events such as bike rodeos and student assemblies that focus on hands-on safety training for students. The program also teaches students skills such as bike repair, safe biking and walking skills near rail, and safe use of other green modes of transportation.

- **School support and assistance:** Our team of Site Coordinators work directly with schools and school champions to implement the SR2S Program, run events, facilitate trainings, educate students and families, and conduct outreach and communication. Each school has a dedicated Site Coordinator to support ongoing, sustainable program participation. Through the Access Safe Routes Program, Alameda CTC provides enhanced support and resources to disadvantaged schools. The program also offers technical assistance to all enrolled schools in the form of travel support.

- **Travel support:** Alameda CTC provides resources on the best routes for students and their families to use when traveling to school, as well as the best locations to drop students off near schools. Suggested route maps, drop-off support materials, and overall safety assessments are available for each school.

Thousand of Alameda County students participate in countywide events each year, including International Walk and Roll to School Day, the Golden Sneaker Contest, and Bike to School Day.

THE SIX E's

These six principles guide the SR2S Program to success and sustainability.

- **Education** – Teach the skills necessary to safely walk and bike and to understand the value of active transportation for health, the environment and the community.

- **Encouragement** – Provide incentives and support to help children and their parents try walking, rolling, carpooling, or taking transit.

- **Equity** – Prioritize SR2S efforts in school communities that need the program the most due to safety and health concerns, and a lack of resources to participate.

- **Evaluation** – Help schools measure their success by encouraging active and shared modes of transportation.

- **Engineering** – Assess physical barriers to shared and active travel.

- **Engagement** – Work alongside students, families, teachers, school leaders and existing community organizations to build long-term capacity and sustainable programming.

88	180	230	290
2010-11	2014-15	2018-19	2022-23

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The SR2S Program strives for continuous improvement. Staff actively monitor program impact by prioritizing program evaluation as directed by the Commission. The evaluation efforts are intended to guide staff in identifying the most successful program elements and in recommending future improvements—all with the goals of continuously improving the program and its effectiveness as well as allocating resources most effectively and efficiently. The most recent **Program Evaluation** includes a robust analysis of the SR2S Program's growth, impact, and plans for the future. The Program also publishes year-end reports that look back at each school year as well as snapshots of individual schools in the program.

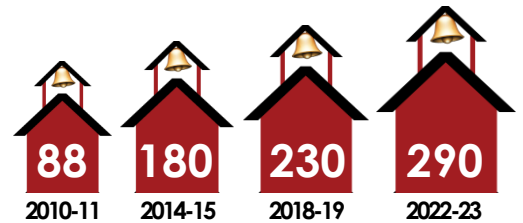Note: Information on this fact sheet is subject to periodic updates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming SR2S events, visit www.alamedacountysr2s.org.

In addition to biking and walking, the SR2S Program encourages students to travel by transit.