

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Board of Trustees recognizes that walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school promote students' physical activity and reduce vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of the school. As part of the district's coordinated approach to supporting student wellness and safety and enhancing student learning, the Superintendent/Principal or designee shall develop and implement strategies to establish and promote safe routes to school program activities.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee may identify a program coordinator or establish a district committee to oversee and coordinate related activities.

The Superintendent/Principal or designee may collaborate with local public works and public safety departments, transportation agencies, other city and county agencies, school staff, students, parents/guardians and parent organizations, health organizations, community organizations, and/or businesses in the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Strategies shall be based on the grade levels of the students and an assessment of the conditions and needs of the school and the surrounding neighborhood.

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall explore the availability of grant funds and other sources of funding to support related projects and activities.

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

The Superintendent/Principal or designee shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of program activities and progress toward program goals. Such reports may include, but not be limited to, levels of participation in promotional and educational activities, survey results of parent/guardian attitudes about allowing their child to walk or bicycle to school, tallies of the numbers of students using various modes of travel to and from school and how these numbers have changed over time, records of student attendance and on-time arrival, and injury data within the district.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (continued)

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32283 *Comprehensive safety plan*

45450-45451 *Crossing guards*

GOVERNMENT CODE

65352.2 *General planning; communication between cities, counties and school districts*

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE

2333.5 *Safe routes to schools construction program*

VEHICLE CODE

21200-21212 *Operation of bicycles, especially:*

21212 *Helmet required for bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, skates*

21949-21971 *Pedestrian rights and duties*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 23

148 *Highway safety improvement program*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1758b *Local wellness policy*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Safe Routes to School: Program and Policy Strategies for School Districts, Policy Brief, August 2009

Building Collaboration: Tools and Ideas for Creating Active Living, Healthy Eating Communities, August 2009

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

Safe Routes to School Guide

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS

Safe Routes to School Toolkit, 2002

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Safe Routes to School 2009 Policy Report: Moving to the Future: Building on Early Achievements, March 2009

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Center for Physical Activity: <http://www.caphysicalactivity.org>

California Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm>

National Center for Safe Routes to School: <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov>

Safe Routes to School National Partnership: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Safe Routes to School:

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes>

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

District strategies to improve student safety along routes to school and to promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school by students may include:

1. Education activities that promote safety and awareness, such as:
 - a. Instructing students about pedestrian, bicycle, and personal safety
 - b. Instructing students about the health and environmental benefits of walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school

(cf. 3510 - Green School Operations)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

- c. Offering driver safety education to high school students, parents/guardians, and the community
2. Encouragement strategies designed to generate interest in active transport to school, such as:
 - a. Organizing or facilitating "walking school buses" and/or "bicycle trains" whereby students walk or bike to school in groups escorted by parents/guardians or other volunteers as needed
 - b. Organizing special events and activities, such as Walk or Bike to School Day, International Walk to School Month, or year-round competitions
 - c. Publicizing the district's efforts in order to build support of parents/guardians and the community, including providing information about the district's safe routes to school program in parent/guardian communications and in any notifications about transportation options

(cf. 1112 - Media Relations)
(cf. 3540 - Transportation)
(cf. 3541 - Transportation Routes and Services)

3. Enforcement strategies to deter unsafe behaviors of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, such as:
 - a. Initiating or expanding crossing guard, student safety patrol, and/or parent/guardian safety patrol programs

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM (continued)

- b. Partnering with local law enforcement to help ensure that traffic laws are obeyed in the vicinity of the school and to implement appropriate measures such as placement of speed feedback monitors, ticketing, and/or driver safety campaigns
 - c. Monitoring to ensure that students who bicycle to school or who use skateboards, skates, or nonmotorized scooters wear helmets in accordance with Vehicle Code 21212
4. Engineering strategies that address the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of traffic control devices or physical measures, such as:
- a. Working with local government agencies, parents/guardians, school staff, and others as appropriate to gather data about environmental conditions and hazards along routes to school

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230 - School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

- b. Working with local government agencies to make operational and physical improvements that reduce or eliminate hazards, such as reducing motor vehicle traffic speeds in the area and establishing safer and fully accessible crosswalks, walkways, trails, and bikeways
- c. Assessing the adequacy, accessibility, and safety of bicycle parking at school and making modifications as needed, such as increasing the number of or relocating bicycle racks and/or equipment storage areas

(cf. 7111 - Evaluating Existing Buildings)

- d. Considering safe routes to school when making decisions about siting and designing of new schools

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

(cf. 7150 - Site Selection and Development)

5. Evaluation to assess progress toward program goals, including:
- a. Gathering and interpreting data based on indicators established by the Superintendent/Principal or designee and the Board of Trustees

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- b. Presenting data to the Board, program partners, and the public
- c. Recommending program modifications as needed