

Safe Routes to School Programs

Over the past 30 years community infrastructures have changed. Bike lanes, crosswalks, and sidewalks are missing from many towns and schools are often built away from the center of a town, often on a road with lots of traffic. As much as 30% of morning rush hour traffic can be parents of school children.

In 1969, approximately 50% of children walked or biked to school and 87% of children living within one mile of school did. Today fewer than 15% of schoolchildren walk or bike to school. Today there are also 3 times more overweight children that there were 25 years ago.

The federally-funded **Safe Routes to School program** encourages children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school. Around the country Safe Routes to School teams are working to:

- Enforce traffic laws near school grounds.
- Keep driving speeds slow near schools.
- Reduce the amount of traffic near schools.
- Ensure adequate pathways, trails, and crosswalks near schools.
- Secure bicycle parking at schools.
- Provide education on pedestrian and bicycle safety to schoolchildren.

Speak to your principal about initiating a Safe Routes to School Team at your school. Or for more information visit www.saferoutesinfo.org or www.saferoutespartnership.org