



# Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

FEBRUARY 2020

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities” is the mission of the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program. Alameda CTC organizes and supports educational activities that teach and encourage families to safely walk, bike, carpool or take transit to school. Schools throughout the county participate in the program, which keeps students safe and healthy, and eases traffic congestion in the areas surrounding schools.

Each participating school is assigned a site coordinator to answer questions and help determine the best way to tailor SR2S to the school’s needs. Through community SR2S Task Force meetings, schools strategize and coordinate events and scheduling, and receive free materials for countywide events like International Walk and Roll to School Day.

## RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

- The online [Resource Center](http://alamedacountysr2s.org) (alamedacountysr2s.org) has materials and templates to download and help schools get started, schedule activities and find information about upcoming countywide events and Task Force meetings.
- Educational activities that schools can schedule include:
  - Bicycle Rodeos (K-8)
  - Pedestrian Rodeos (elementary schools)
  - Pedestrian Safety Workshops (elementary schools)
  - BikeMobile visits (all grade levels)
  - Drive Your Bike 101 (middle and high schools)
  - Drive Your bike 102 (high schools)
  - Family Biking Workshops (families with children able to ride a bike)
  - Travel Training (middle schools)
  - ACT Safely Rail Education (K-12)

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, thereby reducing children’s risk of obesity and associated health problems.
- Cuts down on driving trips to school, which account for 21 percent of all morning traffic.
- Enhances safety in the areas around schools and builds community.
- Reduces traffic congestion and pollution.
- Raises awareness of environmental stewardship.



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



## PROGRAM ELEMENTS

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), which manages the program's three main elements.

- **School support, recruitment and communications:** Alameda CTC works directly with schools to implement the program, develop outreach and communication strategies to encourage students and families to use active and shared modes of transportation, integrate SR2S program activities into schools through policies and curriculum, and support task forces that guide program implementation in each part of the county.
- **Direct safety training:** The program provides free interactive educational activities and events such as rodeos, assemblies and physical education classes 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 safety assessments:** After observing and reviewing existing school access conditions and infrastructure with local stakeholders during school safety assessments, Alameda CTC recommends measures to increase safe, multimodal access to school.



Thousand of students biked to school on Bike to School Day, May 9, 2018.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

The SR2S Program strives for continuous improvement. Staff actively monitors program impact by prioritizing program evaluation as directed by the Commission. Over the course of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, the program team worked to conduct the first comprehensive program evaluation. The evaluation efforts are intended to guide staff in identifying efficiencies, the most successful program elements for different contexts, and recommending future improvements. The **2019**

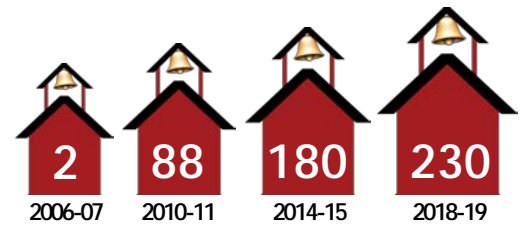


**Evaluation Report** includes a robust analysis of the SR2S Program's growth, impact, and plans for the future—with the goal of continuously improving program elements and program effectiveness, and allocating resources most effectively and efficiently. The complete report is available at [alamedacountysr2s.org/our-services/plan-an-event/evaluation](http://alamedacountysr2s.org/our-services/plan-an-event/evaluation).

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

## PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Over 60 percent of the eligible schools in the county are enrolled in the SR2S Program.
- As of June 2019, there are 230 schools enrolled—165 elementary schools, 40 middle schools and 25 high schools.
- A total of 160 SR2S Champions supported program implementation at schools in 2018-19.
- The program delivered over 2,000 individual activities and events during the 2018-19 school year—this includes everything from pedestrian and bike rodeos to BikeMobile visits.
- Alameda CTC received a regional Active Transportation Program grant to expand the SR2S Program to an additional 70 under-resourced schools.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming SR2S events, visit [www.alamedacountysr2s.org](http://www.alamedacountysr2s.org).



In addition to biking and walking, busing to school is a preferred mode of transportation for students.