

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 and personal safety related to the use of electric or motorized and nonmotorized bicycles or scooters, including by local law enforcement, organizations specified in Education Code 38134, and public agencies that provide safety instructions on such bicycles and scooters.
 - b. Instructing students about the health, academic, and environmental benefits of walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school
 - c. Offering driver safety information to high school students, parents/guardians, and the community to promote safety around school campuses and routes
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
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
 - b. Partnering with local law enforcement to help ensure that traffic laws are obeyed in the vicinity of schools 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

Students

AR 5142.2(b)

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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
 - 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 schools and making modifications as needed, such as increasing the number of or relocating bicycle racks and/or equipment storage areas
 - d. Considering safe routes to school when making decisions about siting and designing of new schools
5. Evaluation to assess progress toward program goals, including:
 - a. Gathering and interpreting data based on indicators established by the Superintendent and the Governing Board
 - b. Presenting data to the Board, program partners, and the public
 - c. Recommending program modifications as needed
6. Emerging technologies that aid in the prevention and mitigation of accidents
7. Emergency response in managing injuries after an accident occurs, including, but not limited to, training staff, crossing guards, student and/or parent/guardian safety patrols, and other volunteers who assist with drop-off and pick-up in emergency procedures
8. Equity, such that resources are distributed in a manner that provides safe access and participation in an equitable manner across the community

State

Ed. Code 32282: Comprehensive safety plan

Ed. Code 38134: Use of school property

Ed. Code 44808: Liability when students are not on school property

Ed. Code 45450-45451: Crossing guards

Ed. Code 51860: Time and facilities for bicycle and scooter safety instruction

Gov. Code 65352.2: General planning; communication between cities, counties and school districts

S&H Code 2380-2385: Active Transportation Program

Students

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Streets and Highways Code 894: Statewide safety and training programs; electric bicycles

Veh. Code 21200-21213: Operation of bicycles

Veh. Code 21212: Helmet required for bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, skates

Veh. Code 21949-21971: Pedestrian rights and duties

Veh. Code 312.5: Electric bicycle

Veh. Code 406: Moped or motorized bicycle

Veh. Code 407.5: Motorized scooter

Federal

23 USC 133: Surface transportation block grant program

23 USC 148: Highway safety improvement program

42 USC 1758b: Local wellness policy

Management Resources

California Dept of Transportation Publication: ATP Purpose and Goals as Defined by the State Legislature and SB 99, March 2015

California Dept of Transportation Publication: Active Transportation Program Fact Sheet, January 2020

Court Decision: Cerna v. City of Oakland (2008) 161 Cal.App.4th 1340

Natl Center for Safe Routes to School Publication: Safe Routes to School Guide

Natl Highway Traffic Safety Admin Publication: Advancing Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: A Primer for Highway Safety Professionals, April 2016

Safe Routes to School Natl Partnership Publication: Safe Routes to School by the Numbers: Using Data to Foster Walking and Biking to School, June 2016

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

Website: CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website: National Center for Safe Routes to School

Website: Safe Routes Partnership

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

Website: California Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School

Website: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Website: CSBA

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ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California