

IV. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL POLICY

Improving children's safety while walking and bicycling is a central mission of Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The common goal of a safe trip to school brings families, neighbors, school officials, and community leaders together. Participating in SRTS programs can improve the health of our children and community. SRTS activities can be an opportunity to try more active trips on foot or bicycle giving families an extra choice in transportation.

A. BENEFITS

1. Being able to walk or bicycle to school along safe routes offers an opportunity to build healthful, physical activity into daily routine and arrive at school ready to learn.
2. SRTS programs are recognized nationally and internationally as effective tools to enable and encourage students to walk and bicycle safely to school.
3. SRTS can contribute to a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by supporting the community schools model.
4. Having safer routes to and from schools aims to decrease pedestrian and bicycling related injuries, not just for students, but for the entire community.

B. SAFETY

Safe Routes to School is a federally funded program to increase the number and safety of kids walking and biking to school through "the five E's" of traffic safety - **education**, **engineering**, **encouragement**, **enforcement** and **evaluation**

1. EDUCATION

- The school corporation will work with teachers and parents to support Walking School Buses and Bicycle Trains.
- EVSC will work with community organizations to annually connect students and families to bicycle and pedestrian safety education opportunities.

2. ENGINEERING

- In collaboration with the City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and Metropolitan Planning Organization, study crash and injury data will identify critical areas where infrastructure changes may be necessary.
- When walking or biking to school is not feasible, EVSC will work to establish remote drop-off and pick-up programs to alleviate automobile congestion near the front of the school and support students' ability to safely and actively transport part of the way.

3. ENCOURAGEMENT

- The school corporation will encourage all schools to participate in "Walk to School Day", which usually occurs in May and October and coordinate remote drop off points for those that cannot walk or ride the entire distance.

4. ENFORCEMENT

- The school corporation will partner with local law enforcement agencies to take measures to enforce school zone speed limits and provide a crossing guard program. The school corporation will provide a student safety patrol program. Efforts will be made to ensure students wear bicycle helmets through trauma prevention and free bicycle helmet safety programs.
- As necessary, provide amenities to support walking and bicycling to school (such as bike racks/corrals).
- Partner with local law enforcement on targeted efforts for traffic violations around schools.
- Students will receive walking and bicycling instructions and recommended routes at the start of the school year. Parents and students will be encouraged to follow these guidelines.

5. EVALUATION

- SRTS applicant schools will use the National Center for SRTS Student In-Class Travel Tally at (<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/program-tools/evaluation-student-class-travel-tally>) to measure the number of students using various modes of travel to and from school.
- Applicant schools will also use the National Center's Parent Survey (http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/sites/default/files/Parent_Survey_English_Scan2009.pdf) to assess the concerns of parents and provide valuable strategic feedback for future Safe Routes to School projects.

C. FUNDING

As funding is available each year through Indiana Department of Transportation, the school corporation will apply for state "Safe Routes to School" funds to finance education, traffic calming measures and relevant infrastructure improvements