



SAFE ROUTES 2 SCHOOL GUIDE



**A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO WALKING
AND BIKING TO SCHOOL SAFELY**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
Welcome to the Fort Collins Safe Routes to School Program!	
What is Safe Routes to School?	
Why Have a Safe Routes to School Program?	
Who Prepares the Safe Routes to School Plan?	
How Can My School and Family Get Involved?	
History of Safe Routes to School	
STARTING A PROGRAM.....	5
SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.....	7
Identifying Support Resources	
National Center for Safe Routes to School	
DEVELOPING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN.....	11
Vision and Goals	
School Site and Neighborhood Assessment	
Prioritize Solutions	
Funding and Assistance Availability	
WHAT ARE THE “FIVE Es?”	14
Education	
Engineering	
Encouragement	
Enforcement	
Evaluation	
FAQS.....	18
RESOURCES.....	20



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Fort Collins Safe Routes to School Program!

Thank you for your interest in helping children safely walk and bike to school! The City of Fort Collins, the Poudre School District (PSD), and the entire school community are dedicated to working towards a more walkable environment. The City already takes pride in its high levels of bicycling and walking at all ages. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is aimed at helping children and parents feel more comfortable and safe in their environment. This will help improve and sustain the high quality community Fort Collins already is and expects to be in the future.

What is Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School is a national program that encourages increased physical activity through walking and bicycling. In addition to seeking physical changes in the environment, community awareness and education are also stressed in an attempt to sustain healthy behaviors.

These goals are accomplished in a myriad of ways based on the “5 Es.” This framework provides the basis for a comprehensive approach to pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety issues at schools and in the surrounding neighborhoods.



Education activities teach students and parents about pedestrian and bicycling safety and how to respectfully use the road. Parental involvement is vital as adults serve as role models for their children.

Engineering targets improvements to streets, sidewalks, paths, crosswalks, and other infrastructure. PSD and City staff work with schools to identify where such improvements will have the most immediate and lasting positive impact.

Encouragement strategies generate excitement about walking and bicycling safely to school. Students, parents, teachers, school administrators, volunteers, and PSD and City staff are all involved in special events and ongoing activities to promote SRTS.

Enforcement doesn't just involve law enforcement officials. Many different community members can do their part to ensure everyone follows the rules.

Evaluation activities include compiling data from surveys and site audits to make sure the program is effectively responding to community needs and parental concerns. This is the key to measuring program success and maintaining momentum.

Why Have a Safe Routes to School Program?

The best reason? You can promote increased physical activity through safe modes of travel and improve traffic safety and congestion. The next best reason? The City and PSD want to help! Fort Collins is unique in that students, parents, volunteers, school administrators, and City and PSD staff support each other and work together. This allows the SRTS program to start working on improving the walking and bicycling environment right away.

Here are some other reasons why SRTS is a great idea:

- Walking and bicycling can decrease the number of car trips. This helps foster a safer pedestrian environment and can improve air quality.
- Helps foster the culture of safe modes of travel throughout Fort Collins.
- Allows students and parents to interact with their neighbors and classmates while sharing an enjoyable experience.
- Walking and bicycling are available any time of the year to anyone at any skill level.
- Families can build strong bonds and unity through fun and healthy activity.
- Less traffic congestion at school sites can improve pedestrian safety.





- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that elementary-aged children get 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity most days of the week. A brisk walk or bike ride to school each day is a good start towards this goal.

Who Prepares the Safe Routes to School Plan?

All of us do! This guide was developed to highlight the resources available to initiate, implement, and sustain SRTS at individual schools. The City and PSD guide the planning process, but student and parent involvement is vital to success.

How Can My School and Family Get Involved?

Parents and others interested in volunteering with SRTS can sign up through the PSD Partnership Center (www.psdschools.org/programs/partnershipcenter). All volunteers who work with the SRTS program must be approved by PSD. The web-based registration allows volunteers to choose SRTS as a preferred volunteer opportunity. Simply select “Safe Routes to School” during the registration process.

The City organizes a district-wide weekly walking and bicycling event called Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays. There are also a number of “big” events during the year including International Bike and Walk to School Day, National Bike Month, and Fort Collins Bike to School Day. Ask your principal to contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator (saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040) if you would like to involve your school in these fun events.

Safe Routes to School typically requires only sweat equity from the school and volunteers. Most efforts to promote walking and bicycling solely require time and planning. The Fort Collins SRTS coordinator can often provide assistance through events planning, prizes, and other encouragement tools. Schools interested in conducting in-class safety education and a school site and neighborhood assessment should contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator (saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040). There is a limited amount of funding available each school year for these activities.

GET GOING TODAY!

Join up with nearby families to start walking and bicycling as a group

Research a route and spend time exploring the route with your children

Start slow and get used to traveling short distances before the full school trip

History of Safe Routes to School

Local

The City's Safe Routes to School Program has been in existence for several years and is funded through grants and two community tax initiatives – Building on Basics and Building Community Choices. The City's program originally focused on capital improvement projects. In 2007, the program expanded to encompass a SRTS Task Force as well as programmatic components. Since then, there has been exponential growth and a phenomenal increase in interest and collaboration throughout the community.



National

Research on the safety of youth walking and bicycling to school began in the U.S. in the early 1970s and was highlighted with the release of the United States Department of Transportation publication "School Trip Safety and Urban Play Areas" in 1975. The term "Safe Routes to School" was first used in Denmark in the late 1970s as part of a successful initiative to reduce the number of youth killed while walking and bicycling to school. SRTS spread internationally, with programs springing up throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

In July 2005, Congress passed federal legislation that established a National Safe Routes to School program. The program dedicated a total of \$612 million towards SRTS from 2005 to 2009. The Federal Highway Administration facilitates the Safe Routes to School program funds, distributes the funds to states and provides guidance and regulations about SRTS programs.



STARTING A PROGRAM

The following steps are based on the framework provided by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The framework has been modified to reflect the unique working relationship between the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre School District. Since every school and surrounding neighborhood is unique, the framework can be adjusted to ensure the greatest success.

1. Bring Together the Right People

The City and PSD have endorsed the SRTS program. Both organizations have planning, facilities, engineering, and security/police staff to assist individual schools. The school principal must approve involvement in the SRTS program. The school principal can then contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator to discuss starting the program. The coordinator can help identify others interested in a SRTS program at the school and create a timeline.

2. Hold a Kick-off Meeting

The Fort Collins SRTS coordinator will convene a kick-off meeting. This will generally include City Transportation staff, PSD Transportation and Facilities staff, the principal and other school administrators, the school wellness coordinator, and the students, teachers, and parents that have committed to working with the program. A goal of the first meeting is to discuss how the SRTS can help and generate next steps for group members.

3. Gather Information and Identify Issues

The Fort Collins SRTS coordinator will arrange a school site and neighborhood assessment for the school. This process utilizes public input and City and PSD staff analysis to look at the built environment, school policies, and student and parent behaviors to gauge the walking and bicycling environment for the school. The City and PSD provide base maps and data to help facilitate the discussion. The school site and neighborhood assessment can identify both short and long term goals, barriers, and opportunities.

4. Identify Solutions

Working together the City, PSD, and the school community can identify short and long term solutions to the problems identified in the school site and neighborhood assessment. Solutions can include a combination of education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement strategies. Improving safety is the first consideration. Responsible parties and



timelines should be identified to ensure progress can be tracked. The group should prioritize both issues and solutions as some may be more critical, or more feasible, than others.

5. Complete the Plan

The SRTS Plan is a collection of the goals, barriers, opportunities, solutions, and implementation strategies identified by the school site and neighborhood assessment process. Any additional information or explanation necessary is also included in the plan. The SRTS Plan does not need to be lengthy. Its purpose is to provide physical documentation of the school site and neighborhood assessment process and to create momentum for implementation.

6. Get the Plan and the People Moving

Many activities can start immediately to encourage walking and bicycling! Hold a kick off event starting with a fun activity, participate in International Walk to School Day or celebrate a Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays. Contact the Fort Collins SRTS Coordinator (saferoutes@fcgov.com) or via telephone at (970) 416-2040) for ideas to encourage everyone to get walking and bicycling now!

7. Evaluate, Adjust and Keep Moving

To sustain the program, consider identifying additional program champions and letting people know about your successes. Identify things that went well in the plan and things that could use improvement. Make notes on how future events can be better and brainstorm for additional ideas for continuous improvement.

SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Identifying Support

Successfully implementing and sustaining SRTS at an individual school requires support from numerous sources to reach specified target populations and brainstorm for best practices to generate change. The following are good starting points for developing a support base:

Local School Districts

- **School Administration** support provides credibility. PSD requires that participation in SRTS be approved by the school's administration.
- **Students** have the greatest social impact on one another and can promote change through example and encouragement. It is important to gain the perspective from students who understand first hand the benefits and barriers to walking and bicycling to school. Students can also act as a primary source when collecting data regarding past and future programs.
- **Parents** are the gatekeepers in that they decide the mode of travel that their kids take to school. Gaining their support will maintain a constant drive behind the SRTS program.
- **Wellness Coordinators and/or P.E. Teachers** within a school can act as delegates in communicating messages concerning walking and bicycling. They can also serve as an internal partner to champion school education or encouragement events.
- **Teachers** interact with students on a daily basis and may easily identify issues concerning the student's safety and their physical activity. Gaining support from a teacher base can provide a direct avenue for support from school administration.

WORKING TOGETHER

"Through our Back to School Day survey, many parents questioned why there was not a sidewalk connection from the school to Elizabeth Street.

The City, PSD, and Laurel worked together to construct this connection now heavily used by students and parents. This is a great example of how community input and Safe Routes partnerships created a positive impact at Laurel."

*Tommi Sue Cox
Principal, Laurel Elementary*

Local Government

- **Safe Routes to School** is overseen by the City of Fort Collins' Transportation Planning Department. The SRTS Coordinator works



with other City departments and programs as well as PSD staff. For any school related issues concerning walking and bicycling we will work with you to create positive change. Contact us at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.

Community

- **Local Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Safety Advocates** can act as consultants as well as participants in encouraging and educating youth on biking and walking to school. These supporters are very knowledgeable in all things pedestrian and bicycling and can provide direction towards achieving a successful program. For further information contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.
- **Local Businesses** may be able to provide resources when hosting an event for students to become more active. Gathering support from local businesses that share the same values of biking and walking can be enjoyable and build enthusiasm for all parties.
- **Volunteers** can provide the necessary staffing to carry out programs supporting the 5 “Es”. Parents interested in volunteering can contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.

Resources

This section outlines the various departments and groups within the City and PSD that work with SRTS. This information is provided for an understanding of how the City and PSD coordinate on the SRTS program. The most efficient way to coordinate with these departments is to contact school principal. They may then contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator to help address an issue or concern.

The City maintains a SRTS website at fcgov.com/saferoutes. Walking and bicycling maps, upcoming events, how to get involved, plus more information are available on the website.

City of Fort Collins

- **Transportation Planning** manages the SRTS program. Additionally, the department participates in development review and the planning of a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system.
- **Traffic Operations** is comprised of traffic signal, signs and pavement markings, system design and monitoring, and work area traffic control professionals.
- **Engineering** provides a full range of civil engineering services with an emphasis on transportation projects. These services include



pavement management, infrastructure construction inspections, and development review.

Poudre School District

- **Principals** are the main point of contact for individual schools and must approve of participation in SRTS. They can also provide direct feedback and assistance on the program.
- **Facility Services** oversees maintenance of PSD building sites and grounds. The department is the main point of contact between the City and PSD.
- **Transportation** is responsible for student transportation to school, athletic events, extra-curricular activities and field trips. These responsibilities also include coordinating the student drop-off system at individual schools.
- **PSD Wellness Committee** coordinates a wide variety of healthy activities both during and after school. The City works with the committee to help integrate SRTS into the larger PSD wellness initiative.
- **Security** employs a variety of methods to promote an inclusive and safe climate for students and staff while at school.

National Center for Safe Routes to School

Other Safe Routes to School programs throughout the nation can be some of the best resources for asking questions, finding data, learning about best practices, and uncovering news about other successes. The website for the National Center for Safe Routes to School (NCSRTS) features many options for networking between different Safe Routes organizations throughout the country. To view the website visit www.saferoutesinfo.org.



Discussion Forums

The forums are an open web log where people associated with SRTS post their thoughts and insights on various aspects of the program. Topics for the available forums include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Starting and Planning Programs | ▪ Evaluation |
| ▪ Partnerships | ▪ Promotion and Communication |
| ▪ Funding | ▪ Walk to School Day |
| ▪ Successes | |

HOW ARE WE DOING?

SRTS is required to submit an annual report for each school that receives federal funding. These reports provide a snapshot of how many children are walking and bicycling, observed behaviors, and attitudes towards the program.

These reports are available for download at fcgov.com/saferoutes

Online Resource Library

The library contains many helpful resources recommended by leaders from other SRTS programs. Training is available to assist communities and states that want to address potential safety concerns. Full training courses from NCSRTS are offered as a web-based training or an on-site training to teach practical approaches for addressing needs on a school, community, and state level.

The NCSRTS also partners with America Walks to host a monthly Coaching Action Network Webinar. The hour long webinars include tips for best practices, success stories, and techniques for building programs. Participants can watch the presentation from any internet connection. If you would like to join a viewing of the monthly webinar email the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.



DEVELOPING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN

The SRTS Plan is a comprehensive workplan that identifies problems, prioritized solutions, and funding sources. The school community, City, and PSD are all involved in the creation of the Plan and have a stake in its successful implementation. This section provides an outline of the planning process, including the school site and neighborhood assessment that is key to the SRTS Plan.

At a minimum, the SRTS Plan should include the vision and goals of the school community, barriers and opportunities to safe walking and bicycling, a summary of the issues raised through the school site and neighborhood assessment, a prioritized set of solutions, and an implementation and funding plan. Copies of a school's SRTS Plan will be available as they are completed online at fcgov.com/saferoutes and at the City's Transportation Planning Department (Downtown Transit Center, 250 N. Mason Street), PSD Facilities (Operations Center, 2445 LaPorte Avenue), and at the individual school's main office.

Vision and Goals

What does "safe" mean to you? The overall vision of the SRTS program is to encourage increased physical activity through walking and bicycling. In order to achieve this vision, people need to feel "safe" in their environment. But safety is different for each and every school and person.

The first step in the SRTS Plan is to imagine what we mean when we say "safe." This is best accomplished through setting goals that will serve as a guide for every decision made at a school. Goals can have a short-term or long-term timeframe and may often complement each other.

It is important that goals do not specify just a single action. They should be focused on what students, parents, teachers, and the school community feel will make walking and bicycling safe.

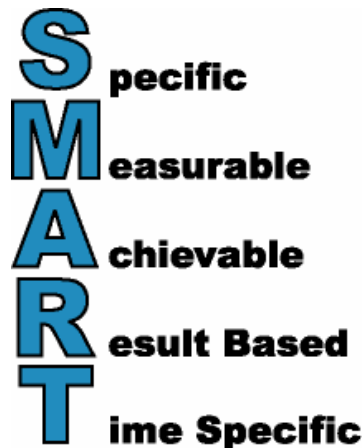
Some examples of short-term goals:

- Provide education for students and parents on responsible walking and bicycling by the end of the school year
- Reduce the number of cars that do not slow down for the school zone by the end of the 2nd quarter

Some examples of long-term goals:

- Increase the percentage of students walking and bicycling to at least 40 percent by the end of the 2009-10 school year
- Enhance the pedestrian and bicycle connection between the school and an adjacent neighborhood within the next two years

The acronym S-M-A-R-T is a useful guideline to determine if a proposed goal is sufficient.



- Goals must be **SPECIFIC** enough to avoid any confusion on the desired outcome, but not so specific that only one action can achieve the goal.
- Goals must be **MEASURABLE**, either by qualitative or quantitative data in order to determine effectiveness of any actions.
- Goals must be **ACHIEVABLE** either in the short or long-term. Additionally, goals should be realistic given funding and other constraints to ensure implementation is feasible.
- Goals must be **RESULT BASED** in that the outcome of the goal is what holds importance rather than the effort or intended outcome.
- Lastly, the goal must be **TIME SPECIFIC**. Avoid setting goals that will “eventually” get done because actions will lack a sense of urgency.

School Site and Neighborhood Assessment

School site and neighborhood assessments are a tool that can be used to collect data and evaluate environmental conditions (social, built, and natural) that affect walking and bicycling. The assessments are composed of the following sections:

- **Planning, Policies, and Programs:** This section focuses on existing programmatic approaches to walking and bicycling including crossing guards, walking and bicycling maps, and any school or district committees. The information collected will help establish a baseline scenario as the SRTS Plan progresses.



- **Physical Conditions:** This section includes a comprehensive review of the physical conditions at a school site and in the surrounding neighborhood. Often this will include morning and afternoon observation to determine how students and parents are using walking and bicycling facilities. Extensive public input and City and PSD staff analysis is required to ensure a sufficient result.
- **Behavioral Observations:** This section focuses on the arrival and departure of students at the school and can be integrated with the physical conditions analysis.

This evaluation tool is a great way to understand the true programmatic, behavioral, and infrastructure issues a school faces that prevent students from walking or bicycling. In addition, the information received from the assessments will help in understanding the best implementation strategies.

A copy of the school site and neighborhood assessment form is available on the SRTS website at fcgov.com/saferoutes.

Prioritize Solutions

Once the impediments to walking and bicycling have been identified, it's time to start working towards solutions. Identifying and prioritizing these solutions takes place at a workshop held at the school. Students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and City and PSD staff come together to discuss the problems and how to best to solve them. Furthermore, solutions are prioritized based on safety needs, ability to fund and implement, and anticipated impact on the number of students walking and bicycling.

Funding and Assistance Availability

The SRTS program is largely funded through federal and state grants. There is often a grant application process that can take time to complete. The Fort Collins SRTS Coordinator is constantly searching for alternative funding sources that can address the solutions identified in the SRTS Plan.

Depending on the nature of the improvement and funding availability, there may be local funds available for SRTS Plan implementation. These funding sources may have different criteria than the SRTS program.

In all instances, the focus is on the quickest implementation possible to ensure the safety of the school community. Volunteers are always needed to ensure that momentum is maintained and to help out with on-going encouragement and education activities.

WHAT ARE THE “FIVE Es?”

Unsure of what you can do to promote safe activity for youth at your school? The following section lists program opportunities for each of the 5 Es (Education, Engineering, Encouragement, Evaluation, and Enforcement). Many of these can and should be coordinated with on-going SRTS activities. If you have a new idea or program to promote biking and walking or just want to get involved, contact the Fort Collins SRTS Coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.

Education

In-School Education

- Request the services of an advocacy group to teach proper bike safety and riding techniques to schools
- Invite the police or fire department to educate students on pedestrian safety regarding walking and potential dangers

Curriculum

- Safe Routes to School offers fun and educational activities developed to teach students about walking and biking. The Fort Collins Safe Routes to School website provides links which feature an entire curriculum for grades K-3, 4-6, and 7-9. The three different curriculums contain material suitable for the corresponding age range as well as learning and physical ability. The curriculum teaches youth about topics ranging from personal and environmental health to modern culture regarding walking and biking. To learn more visit fcgov.com/saferoutes.
- Other ideas for additional classroom teachings regarding biking and walking include:
 - Health benefits of physical activity
 - The effects of pollution on the environment and how we can decrease our impact
 - Classes competing against each other with physical activity logs

Community Education

- This form of education targets parents, neighbors, and other drivers in the community to remind them to yield to pedestrians, drive safely, and take other actions to make it safer for





pedestrians and bicyclists. Ideas include:

- Coordinating a school newsletter article with the principal
- Request a speed trailer to monitor speeding in your neighborhood
- Speaking up at a PTA meeting
- Post “Slow Down in Our Neighborhood” signs available from the City in your yard

Engineering

Engineering tools include a variety of design techniques aimed at improving safety. If you have any concerns or comments about traffic and environmental conditions around a school that may prevent safe travel of walking or biking students, contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.

Engineering solutions are dependent on funding availability and other operational criteria. The SRTS program will always first attempt to address problems through education, encouragement, and enforcement. If an engineering solution is appropriate, an education component is included to maximize the effectiveness of any infrastructure changes.

Encouragement Programs

- Organize bike trains or walking school buses which function like a carpool, by providing adult supervision for students who walk or bike to school in groups.
 - **Bike Trains** are supervised by a parent volunteer, are a group of parents and students biking to school, stopping at houses along the way as more students join in.
 - **Walking School Buses** are similar to the bike train just without the wheels.
- Bike and walk to school programs are effective ways to increase the number of students biking and walking to school while building enthusiasm. A benefit of these programs is that the entire district can participate as opposed to a single school.
- International Bike and Walk to School Day is held on the first Wednesday of every October. This event takes place in more than 40 countries around the world. To learn more or to get your school involved visit www.iwalktoschool.org.

BICYCLE HELMETS

Children who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs through their school are eligible for a free helmet through Safe Kids of Larimer County. All other children and their families can order helmets at a discounted price for \$7 through Bicycle Colorado.

Contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com to learn more

Enforcement

Education and public awareness activities must occur before resorting to enforcement practices. The best way to create a change in traffic speeds and dangerous driving is to inform people of the problem and the serious consequences associated with the action. Ideas for raising awareness include community education through school newsletters or take home materials or working with local media to spread the message.

For some, raising their awareness may be enough to cause them to alter their unsafe actions. For others, the incentive of not being ticketed for safety violations may be necessary. The purpose of implementing an enforcement strategy is not to just ticket drivers but to improve behaviors that could cause danger to students who choose to bike or walk.

It is important to note that no enforcement techniques are to be taken into your own hands. If you have urgent and immediate concerns about dangerous traffic conditions please contact the Fort Collins Police Department at 970-221-6540. For less urgent concerns please contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.

Traffic Calming Techniques

Traffic Tamers is a neighborhood speed watch program which partners with neighborhood residents who want to play an active role in solving their neighborhood speeding problems. Trained volunteers use a radar gun to monitor speeding levels on residential streets. Information gathered is then processed by City staff and a letter from the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Committee is sent to registered owners of the vehicle observed speeding, informing them that the vehicle was observed speeding on a neighborhood street, and asks that all drivers of the vehicle obey the posted speed limit in residential areas. No fines or violations are cited on the registered owners driving record.





Police Patrols

All moving violations in Fort Collins include a \$35 surcharge to fund additional police officers to patrol neighborhood streets. The police department may be available to provide enforcement activities in a neighborhood depending on the severity of the problem. Please contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040 to learn more.

Evaluation

Evaluation activities are one of the most important steps to consider when employing the use of education, engineering, enforcement, or encouragement tactics. Occurring before and after the implementation of these components, evaluation can produce data confirming the successes of some actions and the weak point of others.

The SRTS program is required to complete and submit student and parent surveys to the National Center for Safe Routes to School. These surveys provide a comprehensive evaluation of program participation that can be shared nationally. The Fort Collins SRTS Coordinator can help conduct surveys at individual schools.

After the surveys are complete the data is available online for viewing. The compiled data is available at the Fort Collins Safe Routes to School website at fcgov.com/saferoutes.



FAQS

How do I sign up to volunteer with Safe Routes to School?

Parents and others interested in volunteering with SRTS can sign up through the PSD Partnership Center (www.psdschools.org/programs/partnershipcenter). All volunteers who work with the SRTS program must be approved by PSD. The web-based registration allows parents and others to select SRTS as a preferred volunteer opportunity. Simply select “Safe Routes to School” during the registration process.

What are some simple ways my school can get involved with Safe Routes to School?

Every year Safe Routes to School coordinates International Bike and Walk to School Day held in October. Safe Routes also organizes a district-wide Bike and Walk to School Day in connection with the weekly “Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays”. Ask your principal to contact the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator (saferoutes@fcgov.com) or via telephone at (970) 416-2040 if you would like to involve your school in these fun and exciting events.

Where can I find walking and bicycling maps for my school?

The Fort Collins Safe Routes to School website (fcgov.com/saferoutes) has maps for elementary, junior high, and high schools showing walking, bicycling, and transit conditions.

The City’s Bike Map is available at fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-maps and in print at the Downtown Transit Center (250 N. Mason) and at other various locations throughout the city.

Who can I contact if I have concerns about the traffic or environmental conditions around my school?

Any concerns should first be relayed to the school principal since they may be able to offer a quick solution. Based on the nature of the concern, the principal may need to contact PSD and/or City staff. Any follow-up will be coordinated by the Fort Collins SRTS coordinator through the school principal.

Where can I find bicycling equipment for my child?

A listing of local bicycle outfitters and shops can be found at the FC Bikes website (fcgov.com/bicycling).

Safe Kids of Larimer County provides certificates for a free bike helmet for youth who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program at their schools. For more information on receiving a voucher for a free helmet for you child contact Safe Routes to School at saferoutes@fcgov.com or via telephone at (970) 416-2040.



All other youth and their families can order helmets at a discounted price for \$7 through Bicycle Colorado. These high-quality helmets are Consumer Product Safety Commission certified and are available in four different sizes. In order to get the discounted price, an order must include at least 25 helmets. The Fort Collins SRTS Coordinator can help connect schools and families to ensure this minimum order is met.

How much does it cost to participate in Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School typically requires only sweat equity from the school and volunteers. Most efforts to promote walking and bicycling solely require some time and planning. The Fort Collins SRTS coordinator can often provide assistance through events planning, prizes, and other encouragement tools.

When are the “big” walking and bicycling events held during the school year?

International Bike and Walk to School Day is held on the first Wednesday of October every year. The event takes place in more than 40 countries around the world to encourage safe physical activity and maintain a community that is safe for all inhabitants.

National Bike Month, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, is held in May every year. This includes Bike-to-Work Week and Bike-to-Work Day. School is work, and not just for the teachers!

Additional local events are advertised on the FC Bikes website at fcgov.com/bicycling.



RESOURCES

City of Fort Collins

fcgov.com

City of Fort Collins Safe Routes to School

Email: saferoutes@fcgov.com

Phone: 970.416.2040

fcgov.com/saferoutes

FC Bikes

Email: dk@fcgov.com

fcgov.com/bicycling

Poudre School District

www.psdschools.org

Poudre School District Partnership Center

www.psdschools.org/programs/partnershipcenter

Poudre School District Facility Services

Email: Facilities@psdschools.org

Phone: 970.490.3333