

# Safe Routes to School

The Santa Barbara Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) is coordinated by The Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and involves the efforts of 20 community partners and agencies (including the City and County of Santa Barbara, the PTA Safety Committee, Partners for Fit Youth, the Diabetes Resource Center, the S.B. Bicycle Coalition, Traffic Solutions, the Air Pollution Control District, law enforcement and more).



The program focuses on traffic problems associated with access to schools and works to reduce the number of vehicle accidents and injuries and increase the number of children walking and bicycling to school. SR2S helps schools solve their own traffic problems through a combination of education, encouragement, enforcement and engineering solutions. It promotes walking and biking to school through in-class activities, contests, events, and organized “school pools” of parents escorting children by foot, bike or carpool. The program provides an amazing opportunity for communities, local governments and schools to work together to create a healthy lifestyle for children and a safer and cleaner environment for everyone.

## Safe Routes to School Teams

To initiate SR2S, each participating school principal signs a letter of commitment and designates a Safe Routes to School Team either as a school-based committee or a PTA committee. This Team:

- Gathers information using traffic counts, parent surveys and student mobility surveys
- Works with law enforcement and Public Works to develop a Safe Routes map of the suggested routes to school and identifies current access problems which need to be addressed
- Organizes special events and contests such as Walk to School Days
- Organizes “School Pools,” walking school buses and bike trains
- Explores the incorporation of SR2S curriculum into the classroom and promotes bike and pedestrian safety instruction.

COAST and the Safe Routes to School partners offer each participating school:

- A Safe Routes to Schools Manual with templates and forms and assistance with start-up
- Scheduling of school site visits including police, Public Works, and School Teams
- Guidance in organization of “Walking School Buses”
- Coordination of Safety Training and low-cost bicycle helmet distribution at schools
- Coordination of community wide Task Force meetings
- Information on traffic calming and engineering improvements
- Ongoing consulting and support.

For more information, or to volunteer with SR2S, please visit the COAST website at [www.coast-santabarbara.org](http://www.coast-santabarbara.org).

