



# Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Healthy Kids, Safer Streets, Strong Communities

Spring 2019

## Dear School Leaders and Safe Routes to Schools Champions,

As we march into spring, there are some exciting events to note. First, our annual Student Travel Hand Tallies and biennial Parent and Caregiver Surveys are underway. You should have received emails from your Safe Routes site coordinator and me with full details of the hand tally process and the schedule for your school. Key dates are listed in the [Announcements and Resources](#) section of this newsletter.

Second, we'll soon announce the winner of this year's Platinum Sneaker Award, which is the countywide winner of the Golden Sneaker Contest. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and dedication in making this event a success. Remember: the competition is over, but you should continue taking a healthy route to school. Students who get into the habit of walking, biking, riding public transit or carpooling to school now will have an even greater chance of winning the Golden Sneaker next year! Keep an eye out for the announcement of the winner soon.

Leslie Lara-Enriquez  
Alameda County Safe Routes  
to Schools Program Manager

Ever wonder how to teach middle school students about getting to school safely? The Step Up Crew school assembly, created by the Bay Area Children's Theatre, does exactly that! This concert-style production began in May 2017 and combines fun facts about safe transportation with pop and hip-hop infused original songs to teach kids street smarts like reading street signs correctly. The show is interactive, including several "Pop Quiz" questions throughout the production to keep kids on their toes. The concert also has some serious moments to communicate the real-life effects of transportation safety, such as when the audience finds out one of the characters has lost someone due to distracted driving.

If you are interested in bringing the production to your school, [click here](#) to learn more about it, then [click here](#) to book tickets! You can book online through May 29. If you'd like to schedule your assembly for the 2019-2020 school year, contact your [site coordinator](#) and let them know what dates and times work best for your school.



Book, Music & Lyrics by Min Kahng

Interested in having the Step Up Crew  
visit your school? Book online at [alamedacountysr2s.org/plan-an-event/rock-the-block-assembly!](http://alamedacountysr2s.org/plan-an-event/rock-the-block-assembly!)



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## Spotlight



*Jasmin Vega-Kochel and Principal Walton host International Walk and Roll to School Day at John Muir Middle School.*

### Champion Spotlight

**Jasmin Vega-Kochel** continues to enthusiastically support John Muir Middle School's Safe Routes to Schools program as the Parent Facilitator. Now in her fifth year, she coordinates the school's participation in International Walk and Roll to School Day, the Golden Sneaker Contest, and Bike to School Day. Her impact on the school is evident in the recently-completed Golden Sneaker Contest: over 1,000 students participated, with their first-place class coming in with a participation rate of 95%! Jasmin says that the winning class is very excited to have won the trophy and a donut party, which should be organized soon.

*We want to spotlight your school or school SR2S champion! [Contact your site coordinator for more information.](#)*



## Announcements and Resources

### Spring Surveys

**Student Travel Hand Tallies** are happening April 8-26. We encourage you to participate to help us better tailor the SR2S program to your school's needs. Paper tallies must be mailed back. If you prefer to submit your school's data electronically, the online tally forms will be available through April 29.

- [Elementary and Middle School Form](#)
- [High School Form](#)

Paper tallies must be received by May 3 to be eligible to participate in the drawing for one of ten \$50 gift cards that can be used to purchase classroom supplies or a class celebration.

**Parent and Caregiver Surveys** are available online in [English](#), [Chinese](#), and [Spanish](#). We are happy to provide the survey in a different language upon request. Please encourage your community to participate. Parents who participate will be entered to win one of two \$250 grocery store gift cards.

### Bike to School Day – May 9, 2019

Bike to School Day is held in conjunction with Bike to Work Day every year. Check out our [2019 Bike to School Day Toolkit](#) for help getting started.

Event materials will be distributed at Task Force meetings between April 17 and May 2. The dates, times, and locations of the Task Force meetings can be [found here](#).

### Railroad Crossing Awareness

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are promoting railroad crossing safety during their **"Stop. Trains can't."** campaign between April 16 and May 12. This campaign is the latest in a three-year effort to reverse the uptick in rail grade crossing fatalities. For more information or to download materials related to the campaign, please [go here](#).

### Spare the Air

The [Spare the Air Youth Program](#) high school grant application for 2019-20 is now open and [applications are due on May 1](#). The program funds high school student-led efforts that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation through activities that encourage students to use climate-friendly transportation options such as walking, biking, carpooling, and public transportation. To learn more about the grant and application process, please [click here](#).



*Transit trainings can help students learn how to use climate-friendly transportation.*




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# SR2S Highlights from the 2017-2018 School Year

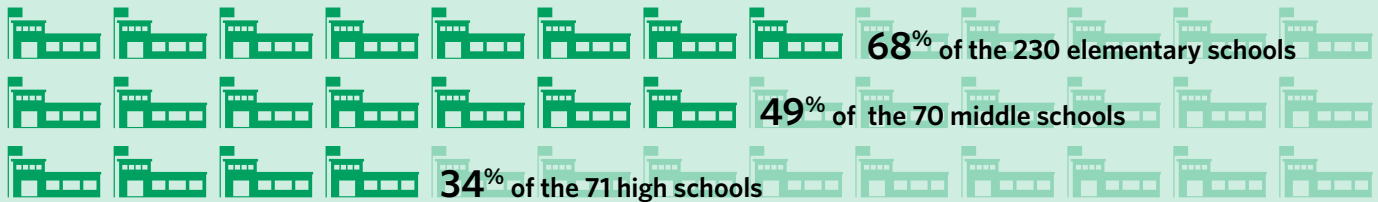
The SR2S Program has changed so much in the past 13 years, with more participating schools and a greater variety of supported activities. The number of participating schools has grown from two in 2006 to 215 today – which is over half of the eligible schools in the county. Last school year, 30% of schools participated in all three of the countywide encouragement events: International Walk and Roll to School Day, the Golden Sneaker Contest, and Bike to School Day. A special thank you to the hundreds of parents, school staff, and community members who volunteered to make these events happen! Check out our [website](#) for a complete menu of program offerings.

See the percentages below for eligible elementary, middle, and high schools that were enrolled in Alameda County SR2S.



**30%** of schools participated in all three of the countywide encouragement events

- » 66% of enrolled schools (142 schools) celebrated **International Walk and Roll to School Day**.
- » 46% (98 schools) participated in the **Golden Sneaker Contest**.
- » 55% (119 schools) participated in **Bike to School Day**.



**215** schools enrolled

Includes 157 elementary schools, 34 middle schools, and 24 high schools. 59% of enrolled schools participated in three or more SR2S activities, and 25% participated in five or more activities.

## Calendar

### April

**April 22:** Earth Day

**April 8-26:** Student Travel Hand Tallies and Parent and Caregiver Surveys

**Walk & Roll to School Theme:**  
Save the Earth

### May

**May 9:** Bike to School Day

**May 30-31:** School year ends for some schools. See the composite calendar [here](#).

**Walk & Roll to School Theme:**  
Bike to School Month

### June

**June 4-15:** School year ends for some schools. See the composite calendar [here](#).

**Walk & Roll to School Theme:**  
Stay Active in the Summer



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