

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Safe Routes to Schools

2019-2020 Year-End Report



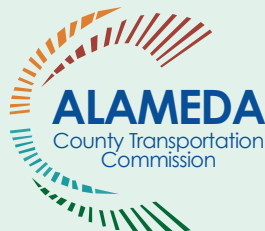
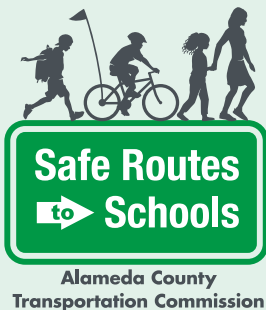
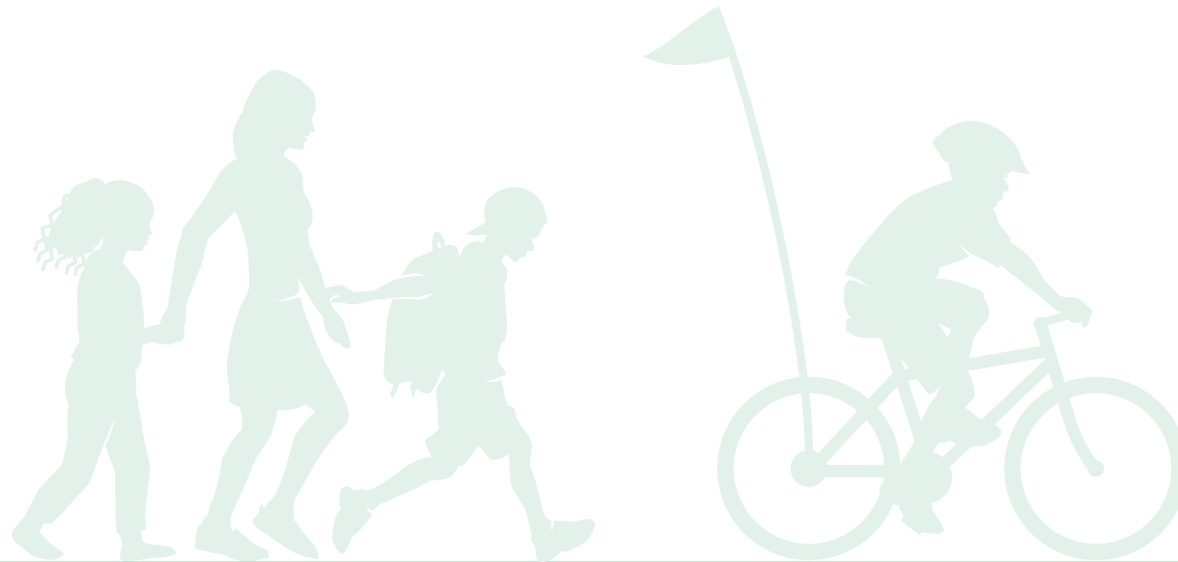
Healthy Kids



Safer Streets



Strong Communities



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Acknowledgements

Alameda County Transportation Commission

Commission Chair

Pauline Cutter, San Leandro Mayor

Commission Vice Chair

John Bauters, Councilmember,
City of Emeryville

AC Transit

Elsa Ortiz, Board Vice President

Alameda County Supervisors

Scott Haggerty, District 1
Richard Valle, District 2
Wilma Chan, District 3
Nate Miley, District 4
Keith Carson, District 5

BART

Rebecca Saltzman, Director

City of Alameda

Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor

City of Albany

Nick Pilch, Mayor

City of Berkeley

Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

City of Dublin

David Haubert, Mayor

City of Fremont

Lily Mei, Mayor

City of Hayward

Barbara Halliday, Mayor

City of Livermore

John Marchand, Mayor

City of Newark

Luis Freitas, Councilmember

City of Oakland

Sheng Thao, Councilmember
Rebecca Kaplan, Councilmember At-Large

City of Piedmont

Robert McBain, Mayor

City of Pleasanton

Jerry Thorne, Mayor

City of Union City

Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Mayor

Alameda County Transportation Commission Staff

Alameda CTC Executive Director

Tess Lengyel

Alameda CTC Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Policy

Carolyn Clevenger

Director of Planning

Cathleen Sullivan

Associate Program Analyst - Program Coordinator

Denise Turner

Associate Transportation Planner

Aleida Andrino-Chavez

Program Consultant Team

Alta Planning + Design

Cycles of Change

EnvirolIssues

Local Motion

Safe Moves

Toole Design Group

TransForm

W-Trans

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program would like to thank all school district staff, school administrators and staff, teachers, Safe Routes champions, parents and students who support active and shared transportation to school.

Table of Contents

1: Introduction	2	5: Equity Impacts	32
Safe Routes Desired Program Outcomes	3	Equity Approach	32
About This Report	4	Access Safe Routes Program	34
The 6 Es Framework	7		
Program History	10	6: Program Sustainability	38
School Enrollment in the Safe Routes		Safe Routes Task Forces	39
Program	12	Safe Routes Champions	40
		School Administrators	40
2: Participation and Outreach	12		
Volunteer Safe Routes Champions	15		
Education Activities	16		
3: Education and Encouragement	16		
Encouragement Activities	22		
4: Safety Impacts	28		
School Safety Assessments	30		
Planning and Engineering Technical			
Assistance	31		

List of Figures

Figure 1: Growth of the Alameda County Safe Routes Program 11

Figure 2. Number of Activities at Participating Schools.....14

Figure 3. Student Modes on International Walk and Roll to School Day*23

Figure 4. Number of Enrolled Schools by Planning Area, 2019-20 school year.....32

Figure 5. Number of Access Schools by Planning Area, 2019-20 school year.35

List of Tables

Table 1: 2019-20 School Year Safe Routes Curriculum (through March 2020)	9
Table 2: School Participation in Program Elements, 2019-20 School Year	13
Table 3: 2019-20 School Safety Assessments	30
Table 4: Access School Activity Participation, 2019-20 school year	36
Table 5. Task Force Participation	39

List of Maps

Map A. Schools Enrolled in the 2019-2020 Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program.	8
---	---

Introduction

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program promotes safe, active, and shared transportation choices as fun and easy options for parents and students to travel to and from school.

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program has grown significantly since the program began, from two schools in 2006 to two hundred and fifty-five schools enrolled during the 2019-20 school year. The program is administered and managed by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and funded by federal funds and local Measure B funds.

Program Changes

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program has a data-driven structure that focuses on activities that affect behavior change and address safety. The program's key desired outcomes are to increase mode shift to active and shared transportation modes and increase safety around schools.

During the 2019-20 school year, the program continued cultivating activities that support

those goals, with new program elements, increased focus on ongoing events, education and training activities, and increased program-wide coordination.

In early March 2020, school districts began limiting extracurricular activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools closed entirely in mid-March for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. This necessitated a quick response from the program team, who pivoted planned in-person activities to online activities offered through remote learning channels.

Another Safe Routes Program change is the removal of Enforcement from the 6 E's Framework, and the addition of Engagement. This adjustment reflects guidance from the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The school closures resulted in changes to Safe Routes Program activities including:

- » All education activities
- » Bike to School Day
- » Ongoing encouragement events
- » School safety assessments
- » Data collection, including student hand tallies, school administration and champion surveys, and focus groups

In addition, the Alameda County Safe Routes team initially paused communications to schools and districts so they could focus on pivoting to remote learning options. After a few weeks, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program was able to offer virtual Safe Routes activities, including pedestrian and bike safety.

Desired Safe Routes Program Outcomes

The overarching goal for the Alameda County Safe Routes Program is to get more students to walk, bike, carpool, or take transit to school.

Adopted by the Alameda County Transportation Commission on January 26, 2017, the two desired program outcomes below guide the Alameda County Safe Routes Program:

- » **Mode shift:** Increase use of active and green transportation modes to reach schools (biking, walking, taking transit, and carpooling) and promote walking, bicycling, and taking transit as viable, everyday transportation options.
- » **Safety:** Increase safe pedestrian/bicycling behaviors, decrease incidence of collisions, increase student and parent confidence in safe walking/bicycling/transit riding abilities.

In addition, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program goals are to:

- » Provide a **comprehensive, equitable program** in a **fiscally responsible** manner,
- » Develop a core program where every student has access to **age-appropriate bicycle and pedestrian safety training**,
- » Establish and maintain **strong, effective partnerships**,
- » Support improvements to built environment near schools to **improve access and increase safety**,
- » Encourage **adoption of Safe Routes to Schools policies and curriculum** within schools,
- » **Evaluate the Safe Routes Program** at the school level so that it is context sensitive and allows the program to adjust, and
- » Engage **parents as transportation “decision makers.”**



Students from Walnut Grove Elementary School enjoy International Walk and Roll to School Day in Pleasanton.

About This Report



Participants rode skateboards to International Walk and Roll to School Day at Wood Middle School in the City of Alameda.

This report summarizes 2019-20 school year Alameda County Safe Routes Program activities. This outline highlights the central themes of each chapter and appendix.

Chapter 2. Participation and Outreach

summarizes school participation in the activities offered.

Chapter 3. Education and Encouragement

provides more details about the specific Safe Routes pedestrian, bicycle, and transit safety education and countywide encouragement activities, as well as the high school program.

Chapter 4. Safety Impacts outlines the School Safety Assessments, parent/caregiver concerns that are barriers to walking and biking, and other safety-focused activities.

Chapter 5. Equity Impacts presents the equity approach and introduces the Access Safe Routes Pilot Program.

Chapter 6. Program Sustainability summarize Safe Routes Program engagement with Safe Routes Champions, Task Forces, and other partnerships that will sustain momentum for Safe Routes in the future.

The following appendices support this report:

Appendix A: School Participation Matrix, summarizes the programming provided at Alameda County schools enrolled in the program.

Appendix B: School Snapshots provides a one-page summary of how each enrolled school participated in the 2019-20 program.

Appendix C: District Snapshots provides a one-page summary of how each district participated in the 2019-20 program.

2019-20 School Year Highlights


Over two-thirds of the eligible* schools in the county are enrolled in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program as of June 2020. See below for the percentages of eligible elementary, middle, and high schools that are enrolled in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program.



255 total schools enrolled

Includes 178 elementary schools, 50 middle schools, and 28 high schools.**

22 percent of enrolled schools participated in more than five Safe Routes program elements, and 9 percent participated in ten or more.



68% of schools participated in **countywide encouragement events*****

- » 61 percent of enrolled schools (156 schools) celebrated **International Walk and Roll to School Day**.
- » 41 percent (105) participated in the **Golden Sneaker Contest**.



More than 200 parents, school staff, students, and community members volunteered

- » 207 **Champions** were recorded.
- » Eight adult **Safe Routes Task Forces** and one youth Task Force met three times each over the course of the 2019-20 school year.



16 high schools participated in at least one Safe Routes activity, such as the Youth Task Force, countywide encouragement events, or regularly scheduled events, such as a monthly Cocoa for Carpools.

* All public K-12 schools in Alameda County with a physical campus whose students travel to and from school are eligible to enroll in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program via a simple online form

**Elementary School: (K-5/6), Combination Lower Grade Schools (K-8), and Combination All Grade Schools (K-12) Middle School: Middle/Junior High (6-8), and Combination Upper Grade Schools (6-12) High School: High Schools (9-12)

*** The three countywide encouragement events are International Walk and Roll to School Day, Bike to School Day, and the Golden Sneaker Contest. However Bike to School Day was canceled due to COVID-19 this year. Cocoa for Carpools is a fourth countywide encouragement events, only held at high schools.

YOU MUST HAVE DREAMS OR HOW CAN YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

March 26, 2019

W/Mathlete

Unit 6 Summative

2-10²⁰

Assessment → Science Astronomy
Assessment → Language/Conventions

Learning Skills

Writing Rhetoric

2-10²⁰

2-10²⁰

small group

2-10²⁰

Persuasive Writing

Know your subject — both sides.

Present it fairly & honestly.

Use evidence to back up your position.

Offer more than just facts.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Use the best argument for your side.

Neuscia

8P5ZM6

$n = 9$

$n = 3$

WELCOME
TO OUR HOME

Homework 3-25-2019

Math: Study your practice test

Science: Vocabulary Words pg 234 Glossary

in Science Mttks

Read pg 43

Answers Wkst

mistakes
are proof
you are
trying

OBS

BINGO CALLER/PLEDGE

ROOM MONITOR

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

FOOT

The 6 Es Framework

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program is guided by the 6 Es Framework that is the hallmark of successful Safe Routes programs. Enrolled schools participate in different types of activities based on their unique transportation needs, challenges, and goals.



EDUCATION

Education activities, such as pedestrian mock cities and bike rodeos, teach key messages about pedestrian and bicyclist safety, health, and the joys of active transportation. Classroom activities teach students how to navigate busy streets and make the connection between active transportation, health, and the environment.



EQUITY

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program works to ensure that program resources and activities are equitably spread throughout the county. Equity efforts also aim to reach the school communities that need the program the most due to safety and health concerns.



EVALUATION

Evaluation activities help schools measure their success at encouraging active and shared modes of transportation. Alameda County Safe Routes collects student travel data annually, conducts student surveys to evaluate how students get to school, and tracks resource allocation to continually improve the program.



ENGINEERING

Engineering activities aim to address physical barriers to shared and active travel. Alameda County Safe Routes conducts school safety assessments to identify infrastructure improvements that help families get to school. Local jurisdictions can take these recommendations and implement improvements.



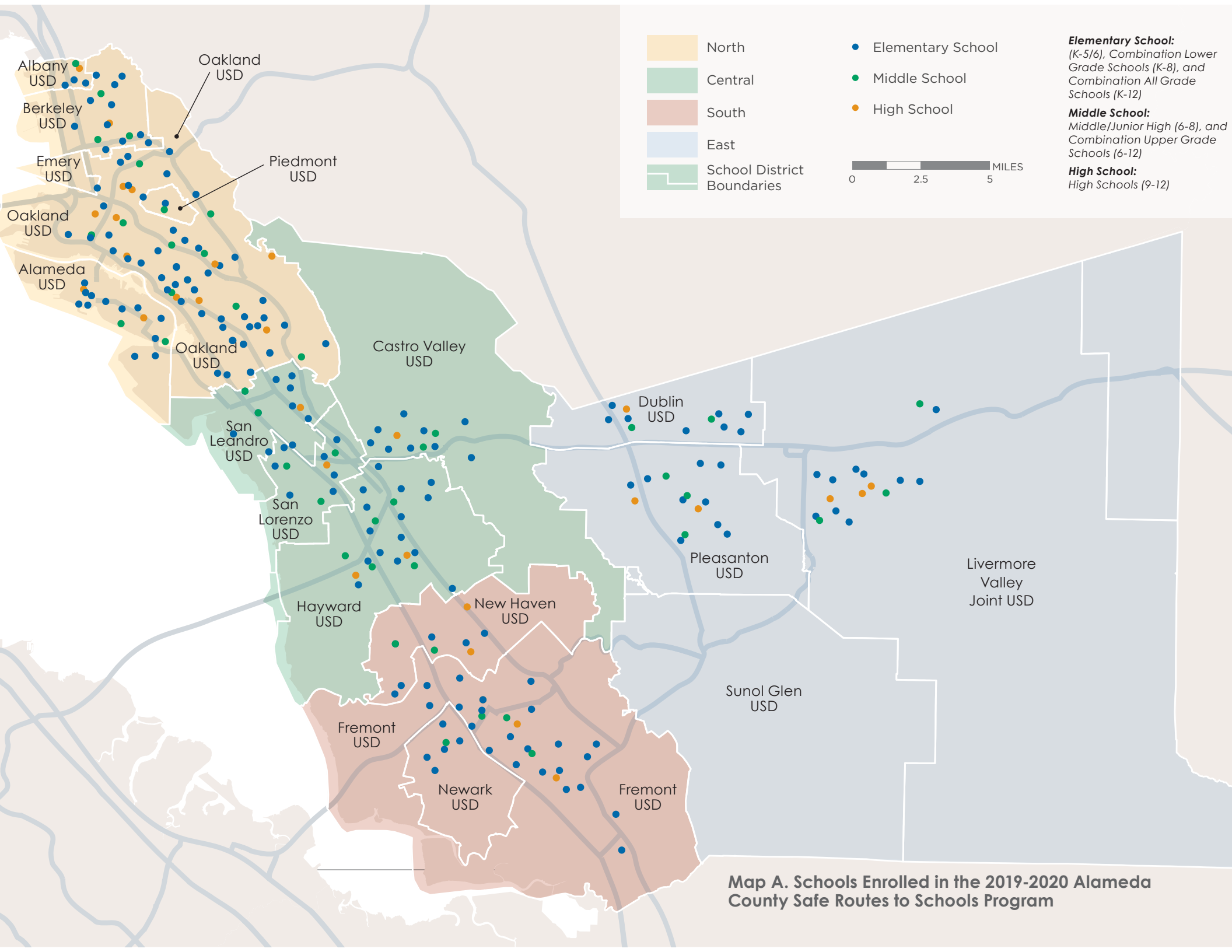
ENCOURAGEMENT

Encouragement activities, such as Walk and Roll to School Days, Golden Sneaker Contests, and others, provide incentives and support to help children and their parents try walking, bicycling, carpooling, or taking transit instead of single family driving.



ENGAGEMENT

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program engages families by working alongside students, caregivers, teachers, school leaders, and existing community organizations to build long-term capacity and sustainable programming.



Map A. Schools Enrolled in the 2019-2020 Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

Safe Routes Program Activities Overview

The following activities were available to schools enrolled in the Safe Routes Program during the 2019-20 School Year.

Table 1: 2019-20 School Year Safe Routes Elements (through March 2020)

	Elementary	Middle	High
Education Activities			
Pedestrian Safety Activities			
Pedestrian Rodeos	●	●	
Bicycle Safety Activities			
Bicycle Rodeos	●		
Drive Your Bike		●	●
Alameda County BikeMobile	●	●	●
Encouragement Activities			
Countywide Encouragement Events			
International Walk and Roll to School Day	●	●	●
Golden Sneaker Contest	●	●	●
Bike to School Month	●	●	●
Cocoa for Carpools			●
Ongoing Events			
Ongoing Encouragement Events	●	●	●
Walking School Bus and Bike Train	●		
Equity Activities			
Access Safe Routes Program	●	●	●
Engineering Activities			
School Safety Assessment	●	●	●

Activity Participation

Schools enrolled in the Safe Routes Program receive support from Alameda County Safe Routes Program staff, who work with each school's administration and Safe Routes Champions to organize activities and events. In middle schools, students increasingly plan and implement Safe Routes activities at their schools and high school students are active champions of the Safe Routes Program. Table 1 shows the activities available to participating schools.



Mode charts encouraged students and parents to indicate participation and travel mode on International Walk and Roll to School Day.

Program History

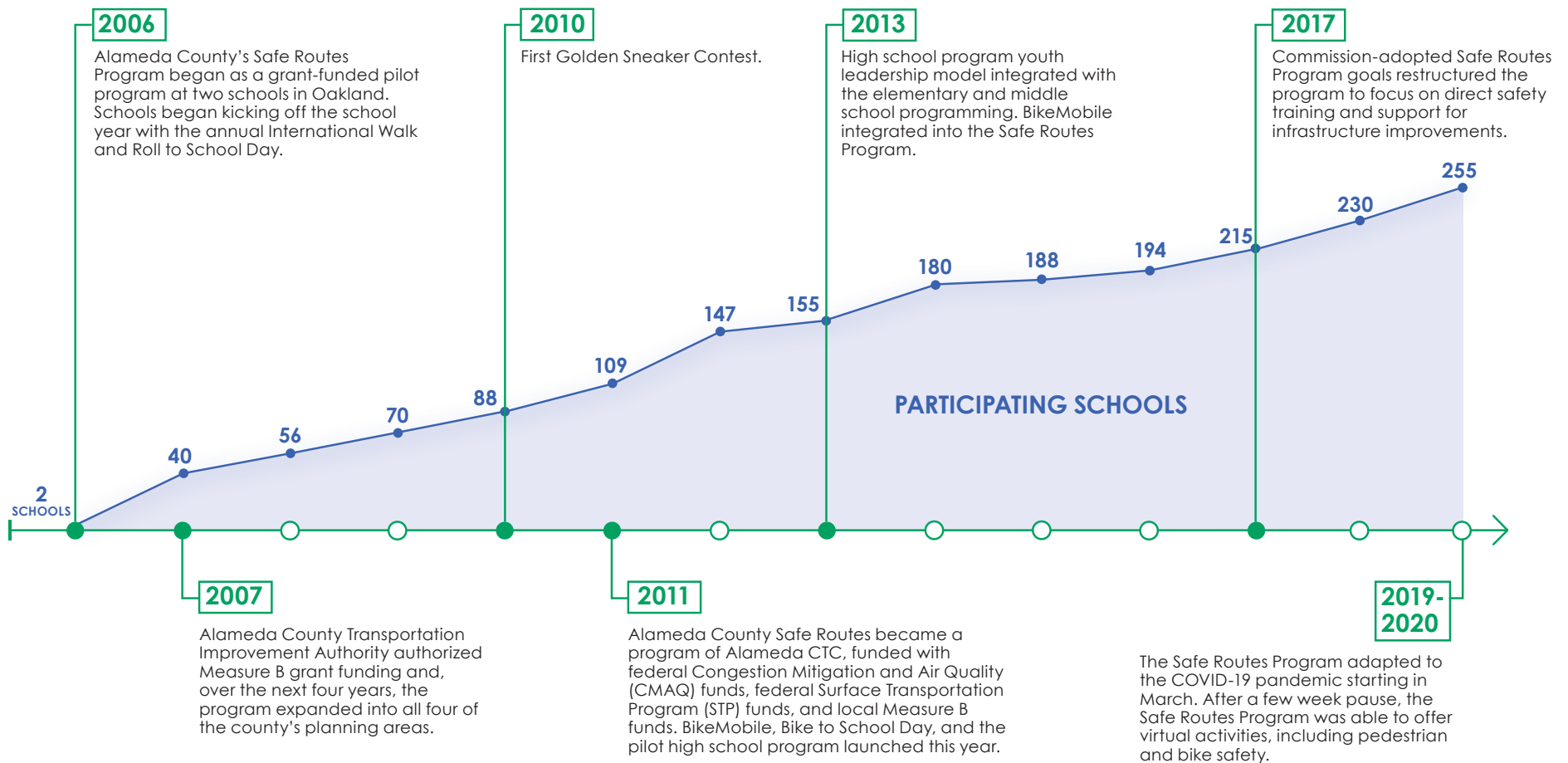
This report summarizes 2019-20 school year Alameda County Safe Routes Program activities. This outline explains the content of each chapter, as well as the three appendices.

The program has grown from two schools in 2006 to two hundred and fifty-five in 2019. Though organizational structure, programming, and funding have shifted, the program continues to provide robust support for students and families seeking to safely and sustainably get to school.



Bike to School Day participants at Bohannon Middle School in San Lorenzo.

Figure 1: Growth of the Alameda County Safe Routes Program



Participation and Outreach

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program offers schools across the county a wide variety of fun, educational activities. This chapter outlines school participation in each of the Safe Routes activities offered during the 2019-20 school year.

School Enrollment in the Safe Routes Program

Schools participating in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program can tailor their programming to meet their specific needs and unique challenges. The Alameda County Safe Routes Program seeks to reach as many people as possible, boost participation in countywide events, such as International Walk and Roll to School Day, and help schools identify and implement activities that will help them achieve their Safe Routes goals. Some activities are organized and run by Safe Routes Program partners, while others are organized by school officials, teachers, Program Champions, and students themselves.

In order to receive services from the Alameda County Safe Routes Program, public schools in Alameda County enroll via a simple online form. Once enrolled, schools are considered part of the Safe Routes Program and are eligible to receive all services free of charge, including support from a school Site Coordinator who will work with the school to develop an implementation plan, identify Safe Routes Champions, and provide technical support related to Safe Routes Program implementation.

School enrollment is different from school participation. Sometimes, enrolled schools are not active participants (see Figure 2). This can be due to various factors including



A student from Alisal Elementary School in Pleasanton arrives at school on International Walk and Roll to School Day.

Safe Routes Champion or school administrator turnover, competing priorities, or a lack of other resources. Safe Routes Site Coordinators work with these schools to understand the barriers to participation and identify solutions to support their participation. Fifty-two enrolled schools enrolled did not participate in any activities year.

Table 2: School Participation in Program Elements, 2019-20 School Year

Program Element	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Combined Schools*
Education Activities				
Pedestrian Rodeos**	21	1	NA	2
Bicycle Rodeos	9	NA	NA	0
Drive Your Bike	NA	17	10	1
Alameda County BikeMobile**	47	11	5	7
Encouragement Activities				
International Walk and Roll to School Day	118	20	9	9
Golden Sneaker Contest	88	14	4	9
Bike to School Month***	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cocoa for Carpools	NA	NA	8	0
Ongoing Walk and Roll to School Days	25	3	1	0
Walking School Bus	21	0	NA	1
Bike Train	7	1	NA	2

*Elementary School: (K-5/6), Combination Lower Grade Schools (K-8), and Combination All Grade Schools (K-12) Middle School: Middle/Junior High (6-8), and Combination Upper Grade Schools (6-12) High School: High Schools (9-12) .

** These numbers do not include community events or instances when schools hosted the same activity multiple times (see sidebar).

***Bike to School Month was promoted directly to students countywide, instead of through participating schools, so school participation data is not available.

Program Activities

Table 2 shows the number of schools participating in each program activity. In addition, the Safe Routes Program hosted two Pedestrian Rodeo community events, three Bicycle Rodeo community events, and thirty-eight Alameda County BikeMobile community events, which involved families from multiple schools.



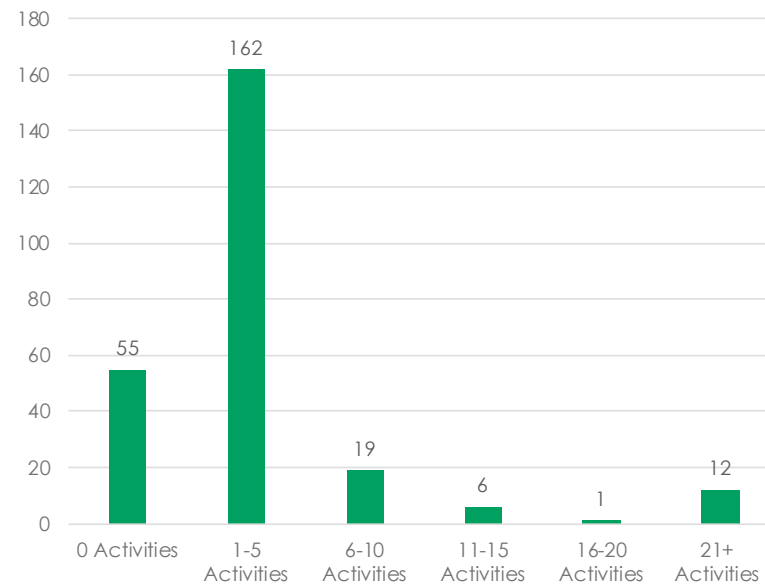
Bikes parked at Maya Lin Elementary School in The City of Alameda on International Walk and Bike to School Day.

Activities by School

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program seeks to reach students and their families with safety education and training about how green transportation options can be safe, fun, and easy to use. Enrolled schools may participate in the countywide encouragement events, as well as age-appropriate safety training activities, and other educational activities based on school needs and concerns.

Figure 2 provides a breakdown of how many activities were held at the schools enrolled in the program, counting weekly, or monthly Walk to School Days as separate events. Each instance of a regularly scheduled event counts as one activity at that school.

Figure 2. Number of Activities at Participating Schools



Volunteer Safe Routes Champions

Once schools enroll in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program, the extent of their participation varies, as shown in Figure 2. Schools that enroll are eligible to receive educational services and support from Site Coordinators, who work with each school's administration and volunteer Safe Routes Champion(s) to organize activities and events. Safe Routes Champions are volunteers who can be either family members or school staff. Champions host events, promote green transportation options, and work with students on education and encouragement activities. In middle and high schools, students are increasingly engaged in the planning and implementation of Safe Routes events.

One of the most important drivers of a school's level of participation is the engagement and time commitment of Champions. Schools that have active and passionate Champions, who can dedicate time to Safe Routes, typically participate in more events than schools that do not have Champions or have Champions who cannot dedicate time to Safe Routes. New schools and schools with new Safe Routes Champions typically require additional support to organize and plan events.

During the 2019-20 school year, 206 designated Safe Routes Champions helped implement Safe Routes activities. The number of Champions increased by 39 volunteers this year, a 23% increase from last year. While not every school has a Champion, 39 schools (15%) had two or more.

In addition, many more parents, teachers, and members of the school community volunteered in support of Safe Routes activities over the year.



A volunteer hands out rewards at Rancho las Positas Elementary School in Livermore during a Monthly Walk and Roll to School Day.

Education and Encouragement

This chapter reports on the activities and events that were implemented during the 2019-20 school year.

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program offers a wide range of fun encouragement events that make walking, biking, transit use, school bussing, and carpooling to school safer and more accessible for families. Encouragement activities combine with engaging educational programming, safety engagement, and engineering solutions to help increase the number of students who choose these modes.

Schools enrolled in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program can participate in a variety of safety education activities and fun countywide encouragement events. Every school community has different needs and challenges to promoting active and shared transportation modes, so individual Safe Routes programs may involve different activities at each school. The Alameda County Safe Routes Program seeks to tailor activities to address a school's specific needs.

Education Activities

Safe Routes education activities teach students how to safely and comfortably walk, bike, and take transit to get to school. Activities are both hands-on and educational, often taking students from the classroom to the streets.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTIVITIES: Pedestrian Rodeos

WHAT IS IT?

In this interactive outdoors activity, students make their way through real-life traffic situations in a simulated city street course, learning traffic safety and lawful pedestrian behavior along the way. Students will learn traffic signs and signals, pedestrian safety practices, how to cross the street safely, how to recognize and avoid hazards, the laws governing pedestrians, as well as the environmental, financial and physical advantages to walking. Sessions are 35

minutes with the ability to accommodate one classroom per session. Multiple sessions can be held throughout the school day to reach multiple classes.

IMPLEMENTED BY

Safe Moves

AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for elementary schools.



A student participates in a Ped Rodeo at Kaiser Elementary School in Oakland.

24

SCHOOLS
SERVED

5,996

STUDENTS SERVED

2

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

“The presentation has greatly improved since I’ve last seen it. The set up is organized and the information was age-appropriate. Students seemed engaged.”

Teacher whose class participated in a Pedestrian Rodeo



Use el hashtag,
"#FamiliaFairview" para
compartir fotos e información
de eventos de Fairview.

PARENT
AMBASSADORS

FamiliaFairview

HUSD
VOLUNTEER
PACKET

Made in Hayward

RIDERS

BICYCLE SAFETY ACTIVITIES:

Bicycle Rodeos

WHAT IS IT?

Rodeos are fun-filled, hands-on training courses that focus on introducing elementary and middle school students to safe bicycle handling skills and safe riding techniques for on-the-road riding. The training incorporates bicycle handling drills and a simulated city streets course where students learn proper starting and stopping technique, hand signaling, how to fit a helmet, how to perform bicycle safety checks, how to ride in a straight line and how to ride safely and predictably. Sessions can be 30–45 minutes.

IMPLEMENTED BY

Cycles of Change

AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for grades 3–8 (in class), or for a school festival or community event.

9

SCHOOLS VISITED

988

STUDENTS SERVED

3

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Students riding their bikes at Anna Yates Elementary School in Emeryville.

BICYCLE SAFETY ACTIVITIES: Drive Your Bike

WHAT IS IT?

Drive Your Bike 101 prepares students to bicycle safely to school and around their neighborhoods, and encourages them to start riding more often. The program starts in the classroom, moves to the blacktop, then culminates with an off-campus neighborhood bike ride. Bicycles and helmets are provided, and there are opportunities for students to learn to ride a bicycle if they don't yet know how. Programs are held during P. E. classes. For middle schools, the program is five days long. For high schools it is four days long.

14

SCHOOLS
VISITED

4,991

STUDENTS SERVED

Drive Your Bike 102 incorporates climate science lessons into the existing high school Drive Your Bike 101 program. In addition to preparing students to bicycle safely to school and around their neighborhoods, DYB 102 incorporates elements of environmental education and engages students in hands-on labs preceded by brief lectures.

IMPLEMENTED BY

Cycles of Change

AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for middle and high schools.



“The hands-on aspect of Drive Your Bike really empowers students and gives them the confidence to ride.”

Alameda County Safe Routes Program Site Coordinator

BICYCLE SAFETY ACTIVITIES:**Alameda County BikeMobile****WHAT IS IT?**

The BikeMobile is a mobile bicycle parts and repair shop that visits schools and community events around Alameda County to perform bicycle repair, teach basic bike mechanics, and promote safe bicycling. Up to 50 percent of Alameda County's students do not ride their bikes due to minor issues, such as a flat tire or worn-out brakes. The BikeMobile can address these problems by bringing mechanics to schools and other places where children and families can access their services.

DELIVERED BY

Local Motion

AUDIENCE

This activity is suited for all students.

70

SCHOOLS
VISITED

38

VISITS TO
COMMUNITYWIDE
EVENTS

1,358

BIKES REPAIRED

1,880

STUDENTS SERVED



A BikeMobile volunteer works on a student bike.

Encouragement Activities

One-time events encourage families to try a new mode for the first time or celebrate families ongoing commitment to active or shared transportation. The events bring the school community together to celebrate how fun walking, biking, transit use, and carpooling can be.

Each year, Alameda County Safe Routes implements four countywide encouragement events: International Walk to School Day in October, the Golden Sneaker Contest in late winter/early spring, Bike to School Day in May, and Cocoa for Carpools (just for high schools).

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program ran a fully-remote Bike Month event in place of its usual Bike to School Day.

“[The Walking School Bus] creates community/connection for the adults as well as the kids that I value so much in this frenetic culture. We’re not hustling (once we all get out there, that is) and its protected time.”

Walking School Bus Participant at Proctor Elementary in Castro Valley Unified School District



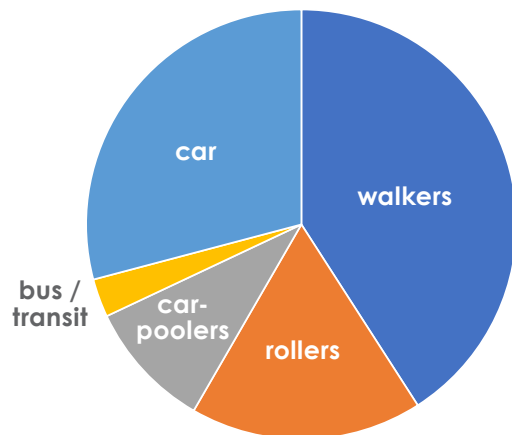
Students from New Haven Unified School District ride scooters at Pioneer Elementary School.

COUNTYWIDE ENCOURAGEMENT EVENTS

International Walk and Roll to School Day

In October 2019, Alameda County Safe Routes Program continued its long tradition of celebrating International Walk and Roll to School Day. Students walked, rolled, carpooled and took transit that day as part of this event that raises awareness of travel choices and kicks off Alameda County Safe Routes activities for the year.

Figure 3. Student Modes on International Walk and Roll to School Day*



* For the 102 schools that provided counts.

Highlights of the 2019-20 event include:

- » **156 schools** participated.
- » Mode chart counts were received from 66 percent of participating schools.
- » Approximately **71 percent of students** at participating schools **arrived by shared and active travel modes** (58 percent walked or rolled, and 13 percent used shared transportation).¹

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Toole Design Group

¹ Based on schools reporting arrival data from International Walk and Roll to School Day.

“We had a great turnout this year! It was a fun event complete with bicycle smoothies, a parent-led bike train, music, bubbles and lots of excitement. The mayor stopped by for a visit and even jumped on our bike blender.”

Event Coordinator, Rosa Parks Elementary School

“One mom said they now park one mile away and then walk together to school every morning!”

Event Coordinator, Love Elementary

“Kids were enthusiastic talking about how they got to school and said they wanted more events like this.”

Event Coordinator, Redwood Heights Elementary School

COUNTYWIDE ENCOURAGEMENT EVENTS

Golden Sneaker Contest

From February 24 to March 6, 2020, nearly 75,000 students participated in the Golden Sneaker Contest. The contest encourages students, parents, teachers, and administrators to make healthy choices by walking, biking, carpooling, and taking transit to school as many days as they can during the two-week period and tracking their trips.

At the end of the contest, the classroom in each school with the highest percentage of students using active or shared transportation received a Golden Sneaker trophy. The trophies honored the students' efforts to support a healthier environment and healthy travel choices.

The 2020 participation numbers exceeded the 2019 participation numbers. However, due to COVID-19 and the associated school closures, reporting this year was significantly lower than usual. Given the low reporting rates this year - and the cancellation of the spring Alameda County Transportation Commission meetings, where the award is presented - there was no Platinum Sneaker Award this year.

Highlights of the 2019-20 event include:

105

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

92

ELEMENTARY*

10

MIDDLE**

3

HIGH ***

APPROXIMATELY

51%

of trips completed by students in participating classrooms were by active or shared modes, including walking, biking, rolling, taking transit, or carpooling.

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Toole Design Group

* Elementary School: (K-5/6), Combination Lower Grade Schools (K-8), and Combination All Grade Schools (K-12)

**Middle School: Middle/Junior High (6-8), and Combination Upper Grade Schools (6-12)

***High School: High Schools (9-12)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

In Dublin, a Parent Safe Routes Champion organized Dublin Elementary's first Walking School Bus. During the Golden Sneaker Contest, parent volunteers greeted students at a park near the school. Parent volunteers each led five Walking School Bus groups each morning. Principal McGovern, Vice Principal Koeppen, and Sharky (the school mascot) even participated in the event, by helping walk kids to school. Many parents commented on how fun the event was, and that they would consider continuing the Walking School Bus after the contest.



Students participating in the Dublin Elementary School Walking School Bus.

COUNTYWIDE ENCOURAGEMENT EVENTS

Bike to School Month

This month-long event, held in May 2020, provided virtual and socially-distanced education and encouragement activities for safe biking. The Safe Routes team also provided school staff, students, and families with guidelines for how to observe COVID-19 health and safety protocol while also using the opportunity to explore their neighborhood by bike or practice riding to and from school.

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Toole Design Group



Alameda County Safe Routes Program hosted virtual safety webinars during Bike to School Month.



Mother and son are excited about their new bike seat during Bike to School Month. Photo submitted through the #ridethedistance twitter handle.

“Our biking has shifted from transportation to recreation. The fact that we aren’t in a hurry means my older kid has been riding his own bike more often, which is great practice. It’s been nice to slow down and enjoy biking for its own sake.”

-Lisa, Parent Champion, Maya Lin School



ONGOING ENCOURAGEMENT EVENTS

Ongoing encouragement events and activities are those that occur multiple times throughout the school year. These activities may happen as part of Walk to School Day or independently.

Bike Train

A Bike Train is an organized group of students who bike to school together with adult leaders. The Bike Train program element provides a toolkit, accompanying materials, volunteer recruitment, route assessment and selection, suggested route maps, and training to interested schools.

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Highlights of 2019-20 events include:

10

SCHOOLS SERVED

353

EVENTS HELD

Walk and Roll to School Days

Regular Walk and Roll to School Days promote active and shared transportation throughout the school year and are excellent activities to sustain and maintain new travel behavior. Site Coordinators support these events by providing outreach materials, sample text for school newsletters and email announcements, and suggested activities and themes for each month, in English and Spanish.

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Highlights of 2019-20 events include:

29

SCHOOLS HOSTED

168

ONGOING WALK AND ROLL
TO SCHOOL DAYS

Walking School Bus

A Walking School Bus is an organized group of students who walk to school together with adult leaders. The Walking School Bus program element provides a toolkit, accompanying materials, volunteer recruitment, route assessment and selection, suggested route maps, and training to interested schools.

IMPLEMENTED BY

TransForm

Highlights of 2019-20 events include:

22

SCHOOLS SERVED

628

EVENTS HELD

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The high school program empowers students to work with their peers to foster active and shared transportation.

While elementary and middle school Safe Routes programming focuses on safety education and addresses parents' concerns about green transportation options, the high school program involves youth-led initiatives. During the 2019-20 school year, 28 of the 65 eligible high schools in Alameda County were enrolled in the Alameda County Safe Routes Program. Participating schools got involved in the Safe Routes Youth Task Force, countywide encouragement events, and ongoing events.

Youth Task Force

The Youth Task Force provides a forum for Alameda County high school students to learn how to lead Safe Routes programs at their schools and share implementation strategies to encourage mode shift among their peers. Students also discuss current transportation issues and activities at their schools while building a community of youth leaders, which strengthen the capacity and sustainability of the Safe Routes Program.

During the 2019-20 school year, 21 Youth Task Force members from schools across the county participated in three quarterly meetings.

At Youth Task Force meetings, students developed best practices for successful events based on their experiences organizing school events and considering their peers' interests, teen culture, and travel logistics at their schools. These inter-school Youth Task Force discussions also inspired students to organize monthly Cocoa for Carpools events, rather than only one-time events.

Countywide Encouragement Events

Youth Task Force members worked with their school leadership classes to plan and host countywide encouragement events at their schools including: International Walk and Roll to School Day, the Golden Sneaker Contest, Cocoa for Carpools, and Bike to School Day.

- » Nine high schools participated in **International Walk and Roll to School Day.**
- » Three high schools participated in the **Golden Sneaker Contest.**
- » Eight high schools participated in **Cocoa for Carpools.**
- » **Castro Valley High School, Dublin High School, San Leandro High School, and Tennyson High School** participated in all four encouragement events.

VIRTUAL SAFE ROUTES ACTIVITIES

Safe Routes Activities Continue During Shelter-in-Place

To continue to support students and families staying active and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Safe Routes Program shifted to delivering some programming virtually. In addition to the shift from the usual Bike to School Day to Bike to School Month, Task Force Meetings were held virtually in April and May 2020. The Alameda County Safe Routes Program produced or customized remote resources related to bicycle and pedestrian safety tips, social-distancing tips, summer reading and movie lists, student-led videos, resources for teachers, flash cards, coloring sheets, scavenger hunts, self-guided walking and biking tours, and tips for learning to ride a bicycle.



Castro Valley Youth Task Force Meeting participants during fall 2019.

4 Safety Impacts

Improving safety for all students in Alameda County, whether walking, biking, taking the bus, or driving to school, is a fundamental focus and key goal of the Alameda County Safe Routes Program.

All students deserve to get to school safely. Per the 2017 goals and desired program outcomes adopted by the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program has a renewed focus on addressing the safety concerns and infrastructure barriers that prevent students and families from walking, biking, carpooling or using transit to travel to schools.

For parents and caregivers, the perception that active and shared travel are dangerous often deters families from

walking or biking to school. Program staff work to increasingly engage parents as the transportation decision-maker via strategic communications campaigns and targeted education to address these concerns.

Additionally, School Safety Assessments (also known as walk audits) are an opportunity for Safe Routes Program staff to identify physical barriers and safety concerns around schools and recommend safety improvements for cities and schools districts to implement.

Increased cooperation and partnerships with local jurisdictions are key components of implementing safety improvements near schools. Program staff will continue to build and strengthen those partnerships.

However, education activities, outlined in Chapter 3, are also an effective way to increase safe student and family walking and biking behaviors.



School Safety Assessments

During the 2019-20 school year, program staff met with most local jurisdiction staff implementing Safe Routes-related programming at the local level. The goal of the in-person meetings was to update local jurisdictions on the changes to the countywide Safe Routes Program, increase cooperation between the countywide program and existing local programs, identify opportunities for coordination, and understand local programs in order to better leverage countywide and local Safe Routes resources.

During a school safety assessment, school staff, community members, and transportation experts observe conditions and motorist behaviors around a school site to identify and evaluate safety issues.

CONDUCTED BY

Alta Planning + Design
W-Trans

As part of a school safety assessment, planners and engineers on the Alameda County Safe Routes team work collaboratively with city staff to develop a set of infrastructure recommendations that local agencies can use as a planning tool or to seek grant funding to make the improvements.

2019-20 School Safety Assessments

In the 2019-20 school year, school safety assessments were held at 13 schools countywide, listed in Table 3. An additional two assessments were planned and canceled due to COVID-19.

Over the program's history, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program has conducted school safety assessments at 225 schools, reaching approximately 78 percent of schools enrolled in the Safe Routes Program.

Table 3: 2019-20 School Safety Assessments

School	District
Amador Valley High School	Pleasanton
Amelia Earhart Elementary	Alameda
Community School for Creative Education	Alameda County Office of Education
Dewey Academy	Oakland
Elmhurst United Middle School	Oakland
Emma C. Smith Elementary School	Livermore Valley Joint
Impact Academy of Arts & Technology	Hayward
La Escuelita Elementary School	Oakland
Lawrence Elementary School (formerly Portola Elementary)	Livermore Valley Joint
Sequoia Elementary School	Oakland
Skyline High School	Oakland
Sunset Elementary School	Livermore Valley Joint
Washington Manor Middle School	San Lorenzo

Planning and Engineering Technical Assistance

As part of school safety efforts, Alameda County Safe Routes Program staff provide technical assistance for schools upon request, often as a follow-up to the school safety assessment. Technical assistance includes mapping (suggested routes map, enrollment, demographic and socioeconomic data, collision data), and implementation of improved drop-off procedures.

“Just wanted you to know that the Edison Safe Routes maps are getting put to good use these days. I’ve started a walking/rolling word scramble scavenger hunt each week. I’d guess about 30-50 families were participating. I always include a link to the Safe Routes map so kids can map the addresses and plan their routes before they go out on the walk.”

Parent Champion, Edison Elementary in Alameda



Pre-observation school safety assessment meeting at Redwood Heights Elementary in Oakland.

5 Equity Impacts

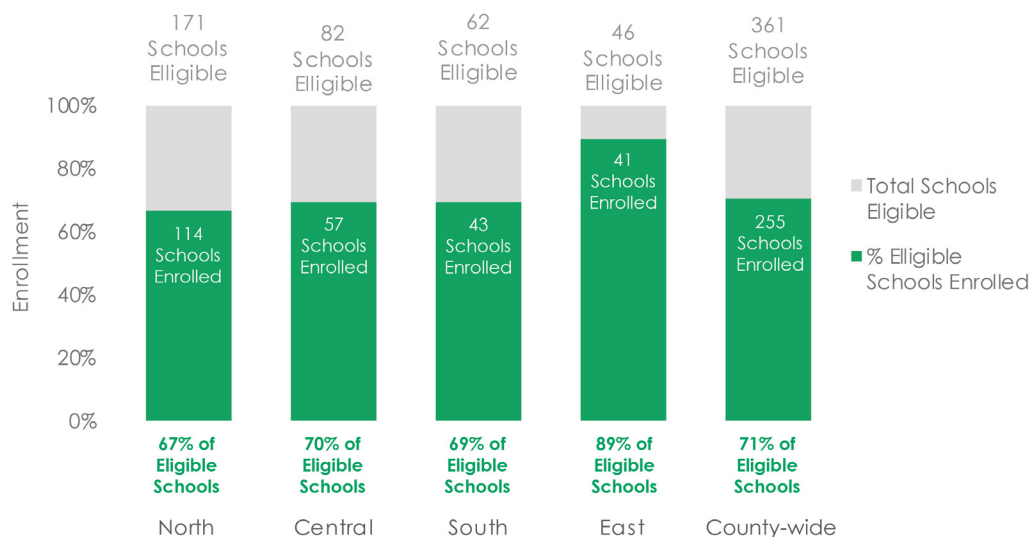
The Alameda County Safe Routes Program addresses equity by working collaboratively with communities to address their unique challenges, and providing these community members with resources to live healthy, productive lives.

Equity Approach

Transportation equity is particularly important for disadvantaged communities because of their common reliance on active and public transportation, which renders them more vulnerable due to poor infrastructure. The Alameda County Safe Routes Program seeks to balance

fair geographic distribution of resources with resource distribution based on need. Need-based equity refers to using demographic and economic indicators to offer additional Safe Routes resources to historically-marginalized communities. Figure 4 illustrates the current geographic distribution of enrolled schools.

Figure 4. Number of Enrolled Schools by Planning Area, 2019-20 school year



The Safe Routes Program uses a data-driven approach to offer comprehensive programmatic and technical assistance to schools with higher need, such as Spanish-language programming and helmet giveaway. A fall 2019 rail safety education grant from the Office of Traffic Safety funded the helmet giveaways. Families with lower incomes are already more likely to use active modes to get to school compared to those in more affluent communities. Based on these findings, there is a clear need for equity-focused Safe Routes programming that makes streets safer and more comfortable for lower-income students who use active modes. The Safe Routes Program also recognizes that personal safety concerns are barriers to walking and biking for families. Addressing these barriers is a priority for the 2020-21 school year. The Access Safe Routes Program, described in the next section, uses a strong equity lens to focus Program resources on the highest need schools.



Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch have **LOWER drive-alone rates** and **HIGHER use of active modes**

Students who do not qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch have **higher drive-alone rates** and **lower use of active modes**

Source: 2018–19 Hand Tally Data and California Department of Education Demographic Data

32%

OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

(81) are located in neighborhoods with a high concentration of communities of concern.¹

¹ Communities of Concern is a regional designation developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to identify historically disadvantaged communities in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC defines communities of concern as census tracts that have a concentration of BOTH 70 percent minority AND 30 percent low-income households, OR that have a concentration of three or more of the following six factors: 20 percent Limited English Proficiency, 10 percent Zero-Vehicle Household, 10 percent Seniors 75 Years and Over, 25 percent People with Disability, 20 percent Single-Parent Family and/or 15 percent severely rent-burdened household, but only IF they also have a concentration of low-income households.



Participants tabling at Pioneer Elementary School in New Haven Unified School District for International Walk and Roll to School Day.

Access Safe Routes Program

In July 2019, the Alameda County Transportation Commission was awarded a regional Active Transportation Program grant to implement a new program element that aims to address the Equity element of the 6 E's framework. The new School Travel Opportunities Program builds on the lessons learned from the Access Safe Routes Pilot Program to implement a comprehensive school travel program at seventy of the most disadvantaged and high-collision schools in the county that were not already enrolled in the Safe Routes Program. The new integrated program launched in early 2020, with program staff developing a comprehensive work plan for implementation. There were 27 schools in the Access Safe Routes Program during the 2019–20 school year, with the full seventy schools to be enrolled over the four-year grant period.

Access Safe Routes Goals

The goals of the Access Safe Routes Program are:

1. To encourage greater participation by under-resourced schools in the Safe Routes Program in the near term.
2. To understand how to build sustainable programs at under-resourced schools in the long term.
3. To deepen our understanding of effective methods and strategies to engage with and get results in under-resourced schools.

The Access Safe Routes Program provides targeted support to under-resourced schools in exchange for input and engagement from the school. This approach informed short- and long-term efforts to develop the culture and infrastructure necessary to maximize use of active and shared transportation modes for school-related travel.

Access Safe Routes Activities

In addition to the typical Alameda County Safe Routes Program offerings, schools participating in the Access Safe Routes Program receive additional technical assistance:

- » A school-specific assessment and maintenance plan for future school-led efforts.
- » A tailored approach to addressing the schools' needs, based on the unique circumstances that affect students' safe use of active and shared modes.
- » Assistance in building leadership capacity of the school community to implement an independent Safe Routes Program.

This program also identifies effective strategies to engage with school partners at under-resourced schools and support sustainable programs. All schools participating in the 2019-20 Access Program were new to the Alameda County Safe Routes Program this year. Since the ATP grant did not start until February and schools closed in March, some Access Schools were not able to participate



THE PROGRAM IS CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL IF:

In the short-term, high equity need schools participate in more Safe Routes activities
In the long-term, schools take the lead on more implementation efforts

in any program activities this year. Many Access schools had in-person activities planned for the spring, before the school closures.

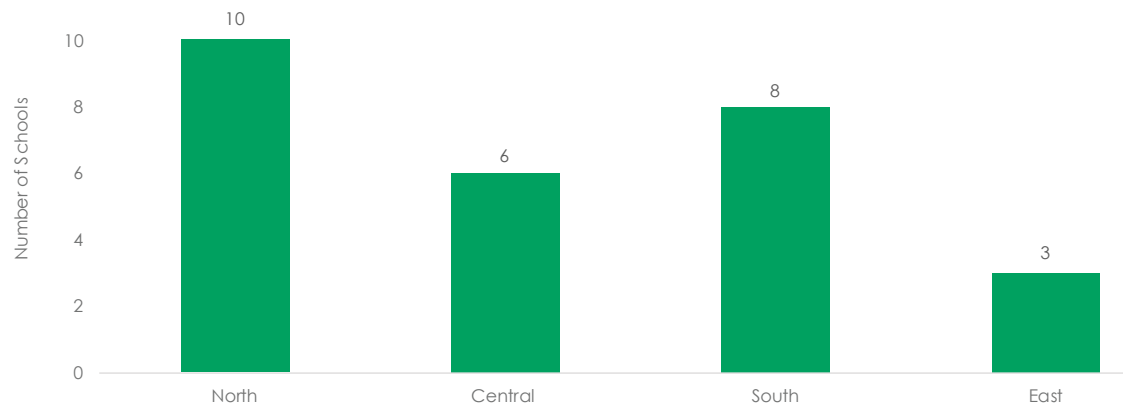
During the 2019-20 school year, 27 schools across the county participated in the Access Program.

As illustrated in Figure 5, Access Program Schools are most heavily concentrated in

the North Planning Area. Out of the four planning areas, the North Planning Area has the highest number of students, so will usually have more schools participate in Safe Routes programming.

An additional six Access Program Schools are located in the Central Planning Area and eight are located in the South Planning Area. Three schools are located in the East Planning Area.

Figure 5. Number of Access Schools by Planning Area, 2019-20 school year



Stickers promoting Walk and Roll to School Day at Rancho Elementary School in Livermore.

Table 4: Access School Activity Participation, 2019-20 school year

School Name	District	Bike Rodeo	Drive Your Bike	BikeMobile	International Walk and Roll to School Day	Golden Sneaker Contest	Cocoa for Carpools	Ongoing Walk and Roll Events	Bike Train
Anthony W. Ochoa Middle	Hayward Unified		●						
ARISE High	Oakland Unified								
Brookvale Elementary	Fremont Unified								
Centerville Junior High	Fremont Unified								
Community School for Creative Education	ACOE			●	●	●			
Cox Academy	ACOE								
Dewey Academy	Oakland Unified								
Donlon Elementary	Pleasanton Unified	●		●	●			●	
E. M. Grimmer Elementary	Fremont Unified				●				
Encinal Junior / Senior High	Alameda Unified								
Impact Academy of Arts & Technology	Hayward Unified			●					
Island High (Continuation)	Alameda Unified		●	●					
Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle	New Haven Unified		●	●					
James A. Graham Elementary	Newark Unified				●				
John Blacow Elementary	Fremont Unified				●	●			
KIPP Bridge Academy	Oakland Unified								
Lawrence Elementary (formerly Portola)	Livermore Valley Joint Unified								
LIFE Academy	Oakland Unified								

School Name	District	Bike Rodeo	Drive Your Bike	BikeMobile	International Walk and Roll to School Day	Golden Sneaker Contest	Cocoa for Carpools	Ongoing Walk and Roll Events	Bike Train
Lorin A. Eden Elementary	Hayward Unified				●				
Newark Junior High	Newark Unified								
Patterson Elementary	Fremont Unified				●	●			
Street Academy (Alternative)	Oakland Unified								
Sunset Elementary	Livermore Valley Joint Unified	●		●	●	●			
Tennyson High	Hayward Unified			●	●	●	●		
The Academy of Alameda Elementary	Alameda Unified			●	●	●		●	●
Treeview Elementary	Hayward Unified					●			
Winton Middle	Hayward Unified		●	●				●	●

6 Program Sustainability

The keys to ensuring Safe Routes sustainability over time are: building strong institutional partnerships, relying on systems rather than individuals, supporting Program Champions and other volunteers, maintaining and increasing consistent funding, integrating Safe Routes into local policy, and celebrating successes.

To be sustainable in the long term, the Alameda County Safe Routes Program must address several challenges on an ongoing basis: ensuring program support in the face of changes in school leadership, competing priorities at schools, insufficient funding, and turnover of volunteer Safe Routes Champions. Participation in Alameda County Safe Routes offers schools ample opportunities to build institutionalized, thriving Safe Routes programs.

This chapter outlines several components of the Safe Routes Program that are designed to support program sustainability.

Safe Routes Task Forces

Safe Routes Site Coordinators, school staff, parents, teachers, district and city staff, and students convene quarterly in district Task Forces to discuss strategies for promoting Safe Routes to Schools and implementing successful school programs. Participants share information about planned activities, partner on events, and brainstorm solutions to common challenges. Due to the pandemic, many Task Forces decided to meet online to continue their work.

Eight Safe Routes Task Forces met three times each over the course of the 2019-20 school year, shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Task Force Participation

Task Force	Average Participation (Schools and Cities)
Alameda	8
Albany	3
Berkeley	6
Central	6
Fremont	9
Newark/New Haven	4
Oakland	15
Tri-Valley	11

Safe Routes Task Force Highlights

- » In the City of Alameda, the Safe Routes Task Force group has established a strong base of parent Champions working with representatives from Bike Walk Alameda and the City of Alameda. As the City is working on their Active Transportation Plan and Vision Zero efforts, Task Force meetings have become an invaluable and established place to get parent input and a Safe Routes perspective. The Task Force participants were able to see how Safe Routes School Safety Assessments were used by the City to inform their plans.
- » Parents in the Alameda Task Force saw the opportunity to connect the Cross Alameda Trail opening with encouraging walking and bicycling to school. In early March 2020, during the Golden Sneaker Contest, parents organized a Bike Train using the trail to lead families from Jean Sweeney Park to the Academy of Alameda.



Participants in the Alameda Safe Routes Task Force holding a meeting on Zoom, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safe Routes Champions

Safe Routes Champions are parent or school staff volunteers who are critical to program success. Champions host events, promote green transportation options, and work with students on education and encouragement activities. Recruiting more Safe Routes Program Champions and ensuring that existing Champions are well-supported is essential for long term program sustainability.

207

TOTAL SAFE ROUTES CHAMPIONS ENGAGED WITH THE PROGRAM THIS YEAR

76%

OF ENROLLED SCHOOLS HAD AT LEAST ONE SAFE ROUTES PROGRAM CHAMPION

School Administrators

School administrator support and enthusiasm for the Alameda County Safe Routes Program is another essential component of long-term program sustainability. Alameda County Safe Routes worked with principals across the county to set goals for their program and create strategies to achieve those goals.

The School Principal at Cornell Elementary shared the following during the COVID-19 school closure:

Getting outside and active regularly can help keep people of all ages healthy and happy—fresh air, some calm, physical activity—it's a boost to your overall wellness! Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is here to help. We recognize that not all people may have access to the outdoors at this time, but we are compiling a list of activities that provide encouragement and education around active and shared transportation for now and in the future.



Safe Routes Program Champions at Ocean View Elementary School in Albany organizing a bike train for students.

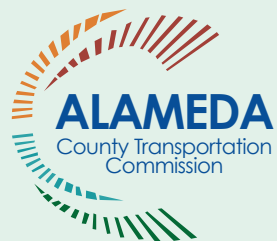
Looking Forward to the 2020-21 School Year

The Alameda County Safe Routes Program team is looking forward to new initiatives that will continue expanding services in more integrated, sustainable, and equitable ways while adjusting to school closures and the realities of life with a global pandemic.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has brought unforeseen challenges to delivering Safe Routes programming. During the 2020-21 school year, the Safe Routes Program intends to [continue offering activities](#) and local support to students and their families through virtual communications. The Alameda County Safe Routes Program will continue to create opportunities to foster parent leadership and promote equity amongst race, ethnicity, income, access and ability at the school and district level. Should the school year include hybrid reopening, Program staff will work with school partners to provide services that include physical distancing and to support the necessary changes the pandemic has brought.



Rolling to school for International Walk and Roll to School Day at Wood Middle School in the City of Alameda.



ALAMEDA COUNTY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM 2019-2020 YEAR-END REPORT

Alameda County Transportation Commission
1111 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94607
www.AlamedaCTC.org