



Press Release

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Alameda CTC Announces Countywide Winner of Safe Routes to Schools' Golden Sneaker Contest

Contest recognizing students who choose active transportation, carpooling and supportive mobility devices for school travel totals nearly 20,000 participants and 100 schools this year.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. – The [Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools \(SR2S\) Program](http://www.AlamedaCTC.org) is celebrating the success of one of its core countywide events: the Golden Sneaker Contest. At the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) meeting on April 25th, Commission Chair and Emeryville Council Member John J. Bauters presented the Platinum Sneaker for highest student participation percentage in Alameda County to Rosa Parks Elementary School. Rosa Parks is part of the Berkeley Unified School District. Chair Bauters and his fellow commissioners also expressed congratulations to each participating school's winning classroom, school staff throughout Alameda County for great participation, and the SR2S Program in delivering one of its core encouragement events for school aged youth.

"Students and families need more opportunities to make active and sustainable transportation choices for how they travel," remarked Commission Chair Bauters. "The Golden Sneaker Contest puts a creative spin on transportation that encourages healthy travel choices and reduces carbon emissions. Congratulations to Berkeley's Rosa Parks Elementary School, their caregivers, school staff and teachers. The number of students who engage has grown by several thousand in the last three years and I look forward to continuing to see more schools continue to strive for this honor."

Alameda CTC Executive Director Tess Lengyel added, "Starting early is the best way to support young people in making active transportation choices throughout their lives. The Golden Sneaker Contest shows just how fun it can be to make transportation choices that take care of ourselves and the environment. Congratulations to Rosa Parks Elementary School and all the schools across the county that participated in this event."

The Golden Sneaker Contest is a popular annual tradition administered by Alameda CTC's SR2S Program. The SR2S program is a comprehensive and proven approach to increase safe walking and biking to school with the goals of reducing congestion and harmful pollutants around schools and increasing the safety and physical activity of students. This year, nearly 100 schools registered for the Golden Sneaker event held

between March 4 and March 15, 2024. The contest mobilized nearly 20,000 students throughout Alameda County into active travel for the trip to school.

During the contest, Alameda County students, classrooms, and schools competed to see who could use active and shared transportation the most, receiving points every time they walked, rolled, bicycled, rode a scooter or skateboard, took transit, or used a supportive mobility device such as a wheelchair. Teachers polled their classrooms and tallied how many students used active and shared modes during the event week, and the classroom at each school with the highest rate was awarded the Golden Sneaker Award. The school with the highest average classroom participation in all of Alameda County received the Platinum Sneaker Award.

An average of 69% of Platinum Sneaker-winning Rosa Park Elementary School students took an active or shared transportation option to school during the contest. This included 15 classrooms and approximately 314 students. The winning classroom was Ms. Biehl's first grade class, with 95% participation. Alameda CTC extends a special thank you to the Rosa Parks Elementary School Safe Routes champion and school principal Susanne Reed for bringing the SR2S Program and their award-winning participation to their school!

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) coordinates countywide transportation planning and delivers essential, voter-supported transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. Alameda CTC administers the county's Safe Routes to Schools Program and provides most of its funding through the voter approved transportation sales tax Measure BB, which was approved by more than 70 percent of voters in 2014. Visit [Alameda CTC's website](#) to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on [Facebook](#) and [X, formally known as Twitter](#).

About Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to Schools is a comprehensive and effective approach to getting more kids biking, rolling, and walking safely to school. It provides kids and their parents with skills, encouragement, and inspiration through a range of activities, events, and lessons, while also addressing local pedestrian, bicycle, and personal safety concerns. Operating since 2006, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission ([alamedactc.org](#)) and is funded in part by Alameda CTC with Alameda County's local Measure BB sales tax, and regional, state, and federal funds, serving more than 295 schools throughout the county. Visit the [Safe Routes to Schools website](#) to learn more, and follow Safe Routes to Schools on [Facebook](#) and [X, formally known as Twitter](#).

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