

# Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Q1: WHAT is the Alameda County SR2S Program?

**A:** Safe Routes to School is a national movement that aims to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. Inspired by this national model, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program (SR2S) is a comprehensive public program that promotes and encourages travel safety, education, and mode shift to increase walking, biking, carpooling, and transit use for trips to and from school. In doing so, the Program creates opportunities for students and families to get physically active, build community, and reduce their carbon footprint.

SR2S promotes and encourages travel safety and mode shift through a variety of program elements including transportation safety engineering resources, educational activities, direct hands-on training, and large-scale encouragement events for school communities. [Learn More About the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program.](#)

## Q2: WHO does the Alameda County SR2S Program serve?

**A:** 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 SR2S Program. [Learn More About our Participating Schools.](#)

Our Program also reaches community members beyond school campuses. For example, the Alameda County Bike Mobile offers hands-on bike repair clinics to help people get back on their bikes at local community locations such as public libraries, parks and recreation facilities, and other community events. The Program also works with local agencies and organizations to build community connections, expand awareness, and increase engagement with program offerings. [Learn More About our Partners.](#)

## Q3: WHO funds and administers the Alameda County SR2S Program?

**A:** The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) ([alamedactc.org](http://alamedactc.org)) and is funded with Alameda County's local Measure BB sales tax, and regional, state, and federal funds. [Learn More About Alameda CTC Programs.](#)

#### Q4: HOW does the school community access SR2S Program services?

**A:** 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 SR2S Program via a simple [online form](#).

SR2S activities are driven by dedicated and enthusiastic champions at each school. School champions are parents or caregivers, teachers, or administrators who lead and coordinate events and activities at the school, striving to get more kids and families to walk, bike, carpool or take transit to school.

Students, parents, educators and community members who want to learn more about the program or be a champion can reach out directly via email at: [info@alamedacountysr2s.org](mailto:info@alamedacountysr2s.org), or via the website: <https://alamedacountysr2s.org/about-safe-routes/connect-with-us/>

#### Q5: HOW does the SR2S Program implement services?

**A:** The SR2S Program offers a variety of opportunities for students and school communities to engage and participate in program offerings. A team of site coordinators work with schools and champions across the county by supporting champions and coordinating with schools to support and plan ongoing and countywide events and bring programming to schools. Some program offerings are listed below. To learn more about all SR2S Program offerings, visit our [website](#).

#### Hands-On Direct Learning Activities:

- **Pedestrian rodeos:** Teach students about traffic and pedestrian safety using a simulated city street course.
- **Bicycle rodeos:** Teach students safe bicycle riding and confidence for riding on the road through fun-filled, hands-on courses.
- **Drive Your Bike:** Teaches middle and high school students how to ride safely ride bikes, starting in the classroom and ending with a neighborhood bike ride.
- **BikeMobile:** Teaches basic bike mechanics and delivers on-site bicycle repairs via a mobile bike shop that visits schools.
- **Walk and Roll School Assembly:** Teaches elementary students walking and biking safety through sing-along music concerts, hip-hop songs, and videos.

#### Trainings:

- **“Go Green” Classroom Curriculum** is an interactive, Common Core-aligned presentation that teaches elementary, middle, and high school students about climate change and the environmental effects of transportation.

- **Your Health, Your City, Your Planet: Travel Training** is an interactive curriculum for middle and high school students aimed to educate students on how to use active and shared transportation options and equip them with the skills they need to navigate and get around their cities and communities independently.
- **Rail Safety Presentations:** Teach students about the dangers of trespassing on railroad tracks, where and how to cross the tracks, safe behaviors when walking or bicycling near railroads, and what to do in case of an emergency.

## Technical Assistance (Transportation Engineering):

We provide a range of services to help manage your school's surrounding environment and support safe student travel to and from campus. You can learn more about these services on our [website](#). Below are our currently available services:

- **School Safety Assessments:** Examine safety around schools and identify programmatic, engineering, and/or infrastructure treatments to improve the safety of families walking and rolling to school.
- **Suggested Routes to School Maps:** Identify preferred routes for walking, bicycling, and taking transit to and from school based on existing infrastructure such as sidewalks, bike lanes, traffic signals, and the presence of crossing guards.
- **Drop-Off Assistance:** Supports schools in identifying Park and Walk locations, developing campus circulation plans, and designing staggered arrival and dismissal strategies.

## Countywide Encouragement Events:

- **International Walk and Roll to School Day (October):** A one-day event that kicks off the school year by promoting walking, rolling, and using shared transit to get to school.
- **Reboot Your Commute (January - March):** This high school-specific event encourages students to rethink their daily commutes and try out new ways to get to school through peer-to-peer mentorship.
- **Golden Sneaker Contest (February - March):** A two-week competition between classrooms at participating schools that challenges students to walk, bike, take transit, or carpool to school.
- **Bike to School Day (May):** A one-day event aligned with local Bike Month efforts. Students and families are encouraged to bike or roll to school, participate in a bike train, and engage in other pedal-powered activities.

## Ongoing Activities (Monthly):

Ongoing Walk and Roll Events encourage students and families to walk, roll, bike or take shared transportation to school. Themes, activities, and resources make these events fun and memorable. Learn more about ongoing activities on our [website](#). These events include:

- **Walking School Buses:** Groups of families and guardians living in the same neighborhood who form a walking group to take children in their area to and/or from school.
- **Bike Trains:** An organized group of families living in the same neighborhood who form an adult-supervised biking group to and/or from school. In other words, it's like a carpool, minus the car.