

ALAMEDA COUNTY

# Safe Routes to Schools

## 2024–25 Year-End Report

Published 06/01/2026

Data compiled August 2024 - June 2025



- ✓ Healthy Kids
- ✓ Safer Streets
- ✓ Strong Communities



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***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, students, and city/jurisdiction planning and transportation staff who support active and shared transportation to school.***

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# 1 Introduction



# 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 (SR2S) Program has grown significantly since it began, from **two schools in 2006 to 311 schools enrolled during the 2024-25 school year**. In recent years, the Program has had to adapt to changing circumstances and needs while continuing to offer valuable services to school communities, and it continues to be an engaging and educational part of the school year for students, staff, and families across Alameda County.

During the 2024-25 school year, the SR2S Program saw **13 additional schools** enroll. Counting these schools, **86 percent of the 360 eligible schools\* in the County are now enrolled in the Program** which represents almost 192,000 students. Three quarters of enrolled schools were also participants in at least one activity during the school year, and many participated in several activities and events.

For example, half of enrolled schools (50 percent) participated in at least one countywide encouragement activity (International Walk and Roll to School Day, Golden Sneaker Contest, Bike to School Day, and/or Reboot Your Commute, for high schools only). Besides these exciting events, the Program also hosted its regular education activities, such as Bike and Pedestrian Rodeos, Walk and Roll Concerts, and the Alameda County BikeMobile.

Program staff have also continued to support schools in facilitating ongoing Walking School Buses, Bike Trains, and Walk to School Days. **Since 2022-23, the number of schools hosting ongoing Walk and Roll Days has nearly tripled, going from 31 schools to 97 this year.**

It was an active and exciting year for the SR2S Program, and we believe that each school year will continue to bring the Program's benefits to more school communities.



**The winning classroom at Parkmont Elementary celebrates their Golden Sneaker Contest victory.**

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

\* 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.

## Desired Safe Routes to Schools Program Outcomes

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

Adopted by Alameda CTC's Commissioners in 2017, the following two desired program outcomes guide the SR2S Program:

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

In addition, the SR2S Program has the following goals:

- » 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 SR2S policies and curriculum** within schools,
- » **Evaluate the SR2S Program** at the school level so that it is context sensitive and allows the Program to adjust, and
- » Engage **parents** as **transportation "decision makers."**



The SR2S Program includes peer-to-peer events like Reboot Your Commute, where high school students encourage each other to walk, bike, carpool, or take transit to school. In the photo above, students at Castro Valley High School create posters to promote the event and gather stories from classmates.

## About This Report

### This report summarizes the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program activities for the 2024-25 school year.

**Chapter 2. Participation and Outreach** summarizes school participation in the activities offered.

**Chapter 3. Education and Encouragement** provides more details about the specific SR2S Program pedestrian, bicycle, and transit safety education and countywide encouragement activities, as well as the high school program.

**Chapter 4. Mode Choice** reports how families get to and from school, based on the 2024-25 student travel tallies.

**Chapter 5. Safety Impacts** outlines the school safety assessments, caregiver concerns that are barriers to walking and biking, and other safety-focused activities.

**Chapter 6. Supporting Under-Resourced School Communities** presents the Program's approach to serving schools with fewer financial resources.

**Chapter 7. Program Sustainability** summarizes SR2S Program engagement with Champions, Task Forces, and other partnerships that will sustain momentum for SR2S in the future.

Additional documents are available that support this report:

[School Snapshots](#) provide a two-page summary of how each enrolled school participated in the 2024-25 Program.

[District Snapshots](#) provide a two-page summary of how each district participated in the 2024-25 Program.



Students from Redwood Heights Elementary School in Oakland place stickers to share how they traveled to school on International Walk and Roll to School Day.

# 2024-25 School Year Highlights

86 percent of the eligible\* schools in the county are enrolled in the SR2S Program as of June 2025.

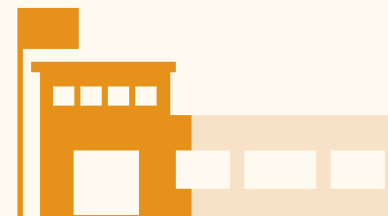
The following graphic shows the percentages of eligible elementary, middle, and high schools enrolled in the Program.



**91%** 209 OF 229 ELIGIBLE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



**84%** 56 OF 67 ELIGIBLE  
MIDDLE SCHOOLS



**70%** 45 OF 64 ELIGIBLE  
HIGH SCHOOLS

**86%** 310 of 360 total  
schools enrolled

Includes 210 elementary schools, 56 middle schools, and 45 high schools.\*\*

74 percent of enrolled schools participated in at least one Program element, and 35 schools participated in five or more different Program elements.



**50%** of schools participated in at least one **countywide encouragement event**\*\*\*

- » 39 percent of enrolled schools (122 schools) celebrated **International Walk and Roll to School Day**.
- » 25 percent (78 schools) participated in the **Golden Sneaker Contest**.



**295** parents, staff, students, and community **SR2S Champions** were active in schools

- » **71 percent of schools** (220 schools) had at least **one volunteer or designated Champion** supporting the program.
- » **SR2S Task Forces** met a total of 40 times over the course of the school year.



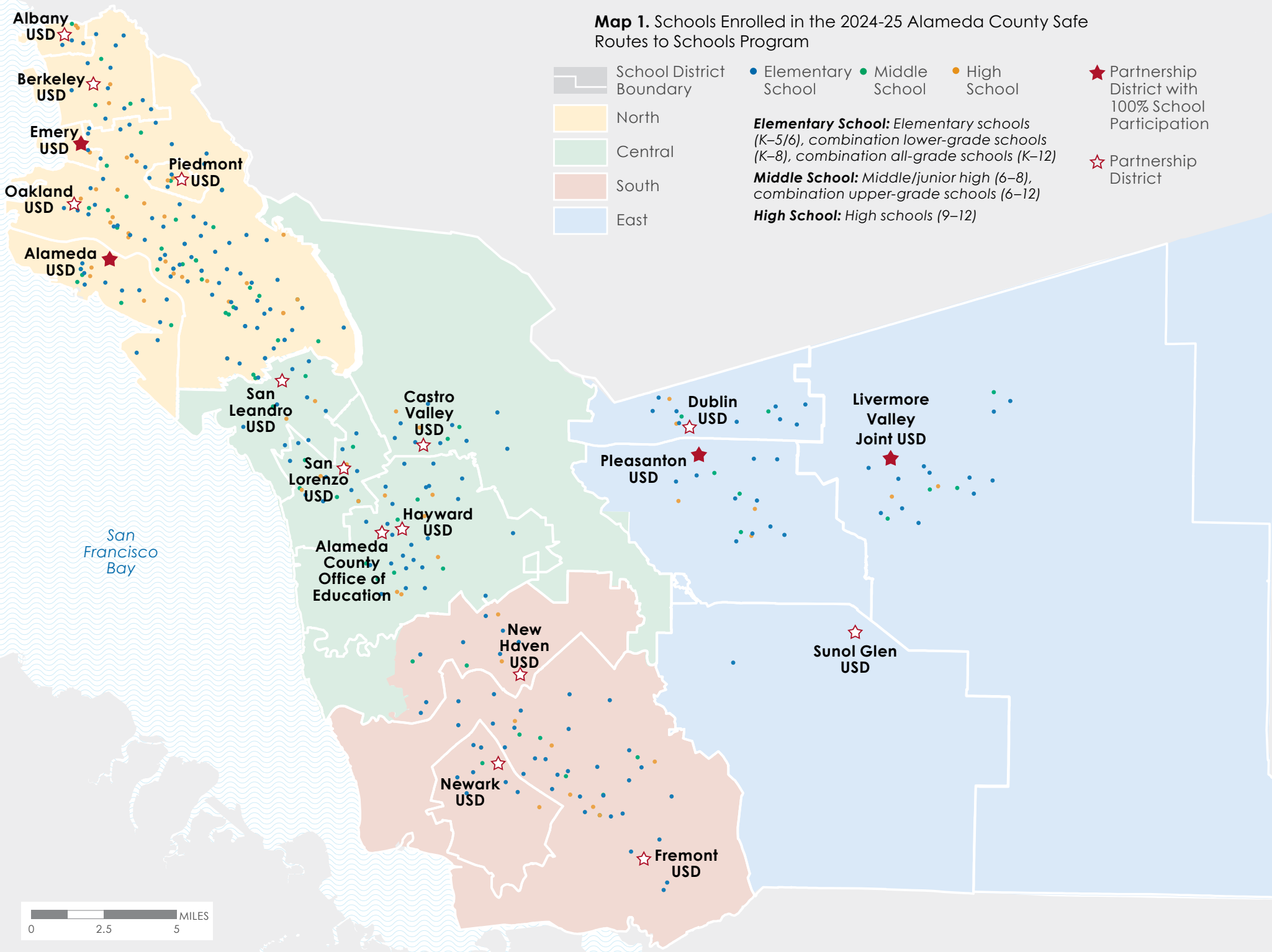
**29** high schools participated in at least one activity, such as Youth Task Forces, education activities (such as Drive Your Bike or BikeMobile), or encouragement events (including Reboot Your Commute).

\* 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.

\*\***Elementary school** includes elementary schools (K-5/6), combination lower-grade schools (K-8) and combination all-grade schools (K-12); **middle school** includes middle/junior high (6-8) and combination upper-grade schools (6-12); **high school** includes high schools (9-12).

\*\*\* Countywide encouragement events for the 2024-25 school year were the Golden Sneaker Contest, International Walk and Roll Day, Reboot Your Commute, and Bike to School Day.

**Map 1. Schools Enrolled in the 2024-25 Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program**



## The 6 Es Framework

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools 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 mini-cities and bike rodeos, teach key lessons 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 SR2S 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 and provide additional support for schools that are under-resourced.



### EVALUATION

Evaluation activities help schools measure their success at encouraging active and shared modes of transportation. The SR2S Program 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. The SR2S Program 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 International Walk and Roll to School Day, 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 SR2S Program engages families by working alongside students, caregivers, teachers, school leaders, and existing community organizations to build long-term capacity and sustainable programming.

# Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program Activities Overview

## Activity Participation

Enrolled schools receive support from SR2S Program staff, who work with each school's administration and SR2S Champions to organize activities and events. In middle schools, students increasingly plan and implement SR2S activities at their schools, and high school students are active proponents of the SR2S Program.

**Table 1** shows the activities available to elementary, middle, and high schools enrolled in the SR2S Program during the 2024-25 school year.

**Table 1.** 2024-25 School Year Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Activities

	Elementary	Middle	High
<b>Education Activities</b>			
<b>Pedestrian Safety Activities</b>			
Pedestrian Rodeos	•	•	
Walk and Roll Concert	•	•	
Songwriting Workshop			•
<b>Bicycle Safety Activities</b>			
Bike Rodeos	•	•	
Drive Your Bike		•	•
Alameda County BikeMobile	•	•	•
<b>Other Education Activities</b>			
Rail Safety Training	•	•	•
Travel Training		•	•
Transportation Storytime	•		
Go Green	•	•	•
<b>Encouragement Activities</b>			
<b>Countywide Encouragement Events</b>			
International Walk and Roll to School Day	•	•	•
Golden Sneaker Contest	•	•	
Reboot Your Commute			•
Bike to School Day	•	•	•
<b>Ongoing Events</b>			
Ongoing Walk and Roll Days	•	•	•
Walking School Bus / Bike Train	•	•	
<b>Support for Under-Resourced Schools</b>			
Under-Resourced School Support	•	•	•
<b>Engineering Activities</b>			
School Safety Assessment	•	•	•
Engineering Technical Assistance	•	•	•

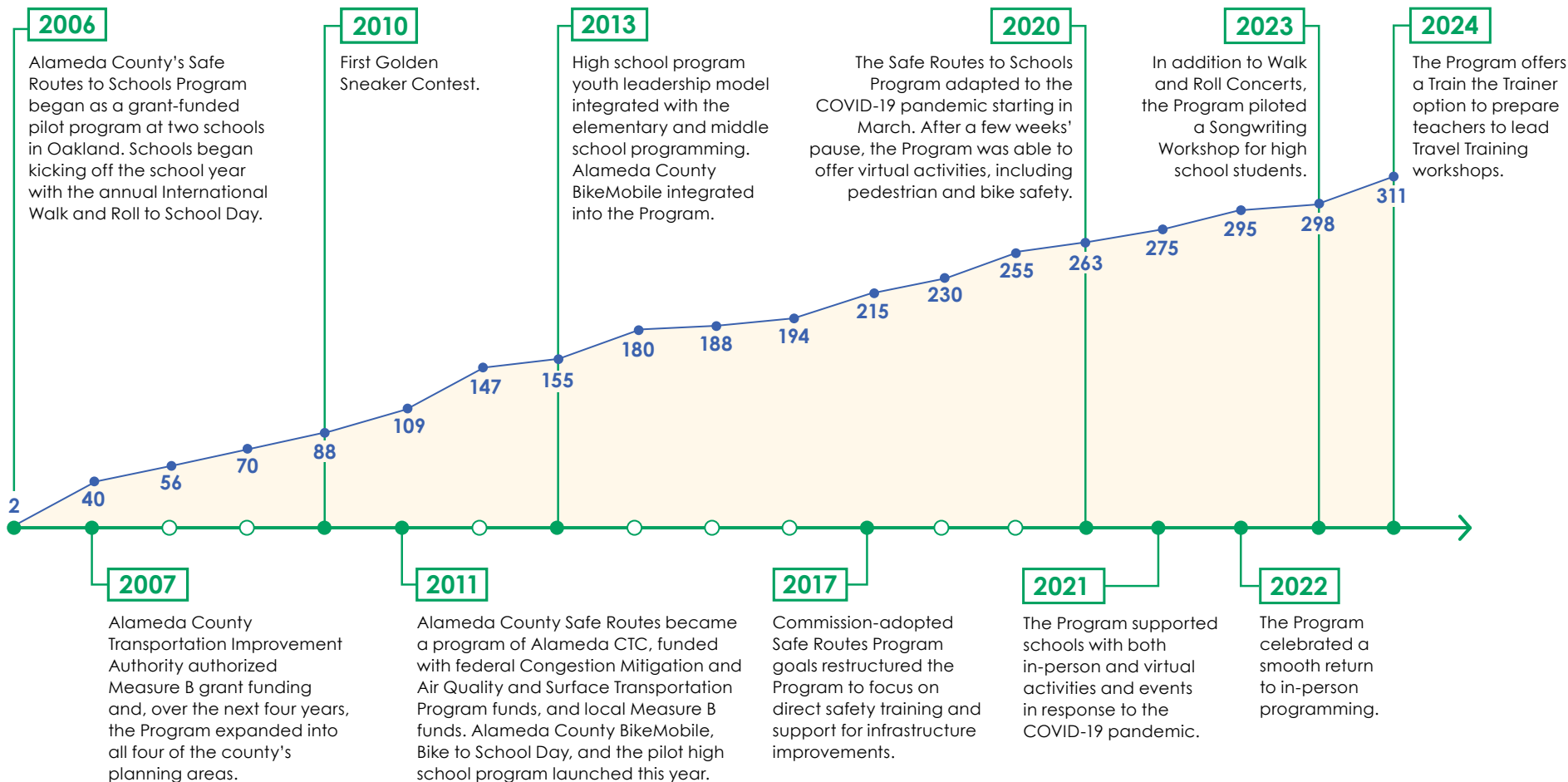
## Program History

The SR2S Program has grown from two schools in 2006 to 311 in 2025 (see **Figure 1**). Organizational structure, programming, and funding have expanded over time, and the Program continues to provide robust support for students and families seeking to safely and sustainably get to school.



Students and families from Madison Elementary School in San Leandro pose with their bikes and scooters on International Walk and Roll to School Day.

**Figure 1. Schools Enrolled in the Alameda County SR2S Program**



# 2 Participation and Outreach



# Participation and Outreach

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program offers schools across the county a wide variety of fun, educational activities. This chapter outlines school participation in each of the SR2S activities offered during the 2024-25 school year.

## School Enrollment in the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program

The SR2S 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 to achieve their active and shared transportation goals. For this reason, **schools participating in the SR2S Program can tailor their programming to meet their specific needs and unique challenges.** Some activities are organized and run by SR2S Program partners, while others are organized by school officials, teachers, SR2S Champions, and students themselves.

To receive services from the SR2S Program, public schools in Alameda County enroll via a simple online form. Once enrolled, schools are considered part of the 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 SR2S Champions and provide technical support related to SR2S implementation.

School enrollment is different from school participation. Enrolled schools are active participants in the program to varying degrees (see **Figure 2**, page 14). Lack of participation can be due to various factors including SR2S Champion or school administrator turnover, competing priorities, or a lack of other resources. SR2S Site Coordinators work with these schools to understand the barriers to participation and identify solutions to support their participation.



Students at Lydiksen Elementary School in Pleasanton pose with their Golden Sneaker trophy.

## Program Activities

**Table 2** shows the number of schools participating in each program activity. In addition to the events shown for each school type, the SR2S Program hosted community events (listed in the far right column of the table), which involved families from multiple schools. **These events included 55 Alameda County BikeMobile visits, four Drive Your Bike events, four Pedestrian Rodeos, and one Bike Rodeo event.**

Note that not all activities are available for every grade level. See **Table 1 on page 8** for information on which activities are offered at elementary, middle, and high schools.

**Table 2.** School Participation in Program Elements, 2024-25 School Year

Program Element	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Combined Schools*	Community Events
<b>Education Activities</b>					
Pedestrian Rodeos	34	1		2	4
Bike Rodeos	15	0		2	1
Drive Your Bike		7	3	3	4
Alameda County BikeMobile	81	23	22	16	55
Walk and Roll Concert	36	0		4	
Songwriting Workshop Pilot			1	0	
Transportation Storytime	12			1	
Travel Training		2	3	4	
Rail Safety Training	0	1	1	0	
Go Green	1	0	0	1	
<b>Encouragement Activities</b>					
International Walk and Roll to School Day	82	12	15	12	
Golden Sneaker Contest	66	6	1	5	
Reboot Your Commute			11	2	
Bike to School Day	40	6	9	5	
Walking School Bus	15	1		0	
Bike Train	11	0	1	1	
Ongoing Walk and Roll Days	83	5	4	5	

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

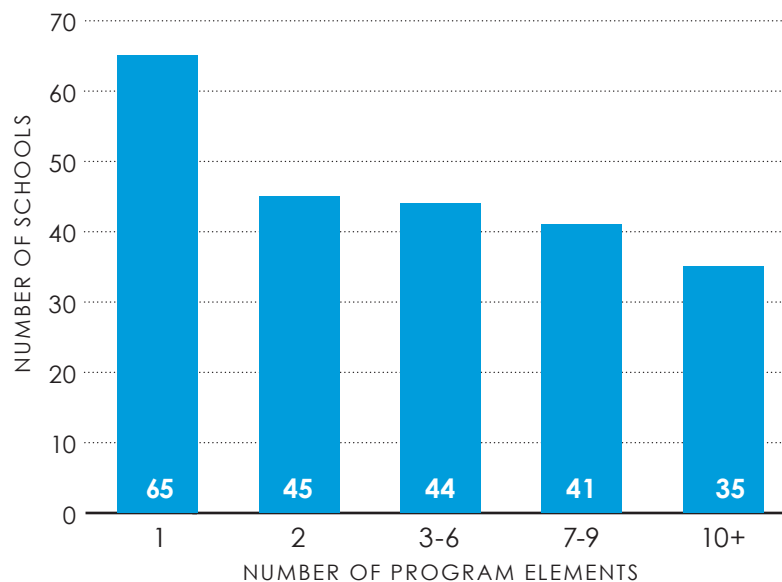
Gray shading indicates a program that is not available at the given grade level.

## Participation by School

The SR2S 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 program elements enrolled schools participated in. According to this information, many schools participated in one or two desired program elements, while a select few participated in an array of activities.

**Figure 2.** *Number of Program Elements at Participating Schools (2024-25)*



## Safe Routes to Schools Champions

SR2S Champions play a critical role in the success of the Program. Champions may be school staff, parents, caregivers, high school students, or community members who promote walking, rolling, and transit use by generating enthusiasm and helping organize and promote SR2S activities. Champions may be volunteers or designated staff members with SR2S included as part of their job responsibilities.

Champions provide a wide range of support for program implementation, including hosting events, promoting sustainable transportation options, and working directly with students on education and encouragement efforts. At the high school level, student Champions are increasingly involved in planning and implementing SR2S events, helping to build peer-to-peer engagement and leadership.

One of the most significant determinants of school participation after enrolling in the SR2S Program is the presence and engagement of at least one SR2S Champion. Schools with active, committed Champions tend to participate in more SR2S events and activities, while schools without Champions, or where Champions have limited capacity, often require additional support to participate in SR2S events and activities. This highlights the critical importance of these individuals in bringing education and encouragement to Alameda County schools.

**During the 2024-25 school year, 295 designated SR2S Champions helped implement SR2S activities. While not every school had a Champion, 71 percent of schools (220 schools) had at least one, and 27 percent (85 schools) had two or more.**

In addition to identified Champions, many more parents, teachers, and members of the school community volunteered in support of SR2S activities during the school year, contributing their time and support in a variety of ways to help implement SR2S activities and strengthen school-based participation.

**SR2S is possible because of the time and dedication of the SR2S Champions who work to create opportunities and excitement about active transportation. Below, Walking School Bus leaders at Valley View Elementary in Pleasanton pose after arriving at school.**



# 3 Education and Encouragement



# Education and Encouragement

**This chapter reports on the activities and events that were implemented during the 2024-25 school year.**

The SR2S Program offers a wide range of fun activities and events that make walking, biking, transit use, school busing, and carpooling to school safer and more accessible for families. These activities are a key part of the Program's efforts to increase the number of students who choose these modes.

Schools enrolled in the SR2S 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 schools may participate in different activities. The SR2S Program seeks to tailor activities to address each school's specific needs.

## Education Activities

SR2S 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.

Education activities offered by the SR2S Program include Pedestrian and Bike Rodeos, Drive Your Bike trainings, Alameda County BikeMobile, Travel Training, Walk and Roll Concerts, Transportation Storytime, Rail Safety Training, and Go Green. More about each of these activities can be found on the following pages.



**Youth Task Force members from Castro Valley High School read to students at Stanton Elementary School in Castro Valley as part of a Transportation Storytime event.**

## Pedestrian Safety Activities

### Pedestrian Rodeos

#### WHAT IS IT?

Pedestrian rodeos are interactive pedestrian safety trainings where students practice navigating roadways using small-scale courses, learning traffic safety and lawful pedestrian behavior through participatory activities. Participating classes learn skills like understanding traffic signs and signals, crossing the street safely, and recognizing and avoiding hazards, as well as the environmental, financial, and physical

advantages to walking. Multiple sessions can be held throughout the school day to reach multiple classes, and virtual presentations are also available.

#### DELIVERED BY

Safe Moves

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for elementary schools.



Walk to School Day events allow students to practice the skills they learn in Pedestrian Rodeos.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 37

SCHOOL EVENTS

# 5,266

STUDENTS SERVED

# 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This was important safety information for our students, and it was presented in an engaging and interactive way. Our TK and K students can be a tough crowd for someone who isn't used to interacting with kids with short attention spans, and the presenter kept them with him throughout the program.

*Teacher at Malcolm X Elementary in Berkeley*

## Bicycle Safety Activities

### Bike Rodeos

#### WHAT IS IT?

Bike Rodeos are fun-filled, hands-on training courses that focus on introducing elementary students to safe bicycle handling skills and safe riding techniques for on-the-road riding. The training includes drills, as well as a simulated city streets course where students learn skills such as 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 are 30 to 45 minutes.

#### DELIVERED BY

Cycles of Change

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for grades 3 to 8 (in class). It is also well-suited for a school festival or community event.



Students at Castro Valley Elementary School practice intersection safety while building skills on their bikes during a Bike Rodeo.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**17**  
SCHOOLS SERVED

**2,640**  
STUDENTS SERVED

**1**  
COMMUNITY EVENT

“This was an amazing program for our students. We are so glad that you were able to secure funding to bring it to us. Many of our students have little to no experience with a bicycle and probably won't again without this type of programming.

*Teacher at James Monroe Elementary in San Leandro*”

## Bicycle Safety Activities



Students and families from Chabot Elementary School in Oakland ride safely to school in a Bike Train.

### Drive Your Bike

#### WHAT IS IT?

Drive Your Bike prepares students to bicycle safely to school and around their neighborhoods and encourages them to start riding more often. Cycles of Change also offers a virtual presentation of Drive Your Bike, which covers bike safety (helmet and bike fit, pre-ride safety check), bike handling skills, and rules for navigating streets safely.

#### DELIVERED BY

Cycles of Change

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for middle and high schools.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**13**  
SCHOOLS SERVED

**4,120**  
STUDENTS SERVED

**4**  
COMMUNITY EVENT

**This Bike Rodeo and Drive Your Bike programs are AWESOME! I'm really looking forward to having you back at Marin next year and making this an annual tradition. It's so important as we hope to get more and more kids independent on bicycles! Thank you for this wonderful opportunity for my school.**

*Teacher at Marin Elementary in Albany*

## Bicycle Safety Activities



A student in Dublin works with the BikeMobile team to repair their bicycle.

### 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. Many students do not ride their bikes due to minor issues, such as a flat tire or worn-out brakes. The BikeMobile addresses 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.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**142**  
SCHOOL EVENTS

**55**  
COMMUNITY EVENTS

**5,305**  
STUDENTS SERVED

**The program went well above our expectations, repairing bikes for over 40 people in our school and community. Families were smiling and happy, and so grateful. One family arrived just after [closing], and still the team welcomed them and helped them. We feel so blessed by this visit!**

*Teacher at Centerville Middle School in Fremont*

## Transportation Activities

### Walk and Roll Concerts

#### WHAT IS IT?

Founded by two middle school teachers from South Central Los Angeles, Music Notes is an educational music company that has created a custom walking- and biking-themed concert for the SR2S Program that teaches walking and biking safety through hip hop songs and videos. The Walk and Roll Concerts are delivered in person at a school assembly or event.

#### DELIVERED BY

Music Notes

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for elementary and middle schools.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 40

SCHOOLS SERVED



Students at Highland Community School in Oakland getting active and having fun while learning about safety during a Music Notes assembly.

**We did the Music Notes Assembly this morning to build off the momentum from Walk & Roll yesterday. The assembly was SO well-received and well organized!!! Our staff and students LOVED it.**

*Parent Champion at Stanton Elementary in Castro Valley*

## Transportation Activities

### Songwriting Workshop

#### WHAT IS IT?

Music Notes' Songwriting Workshop engages older students by guiding them in writing original songs centered on Safe Routes themes such as distracted driving or pedestrian safety, often with younger students in mind as the audience. The instructor helps students navigate the songwriting process while reinforcing key safety concepts, and supporting many participants who are new to songwriting.

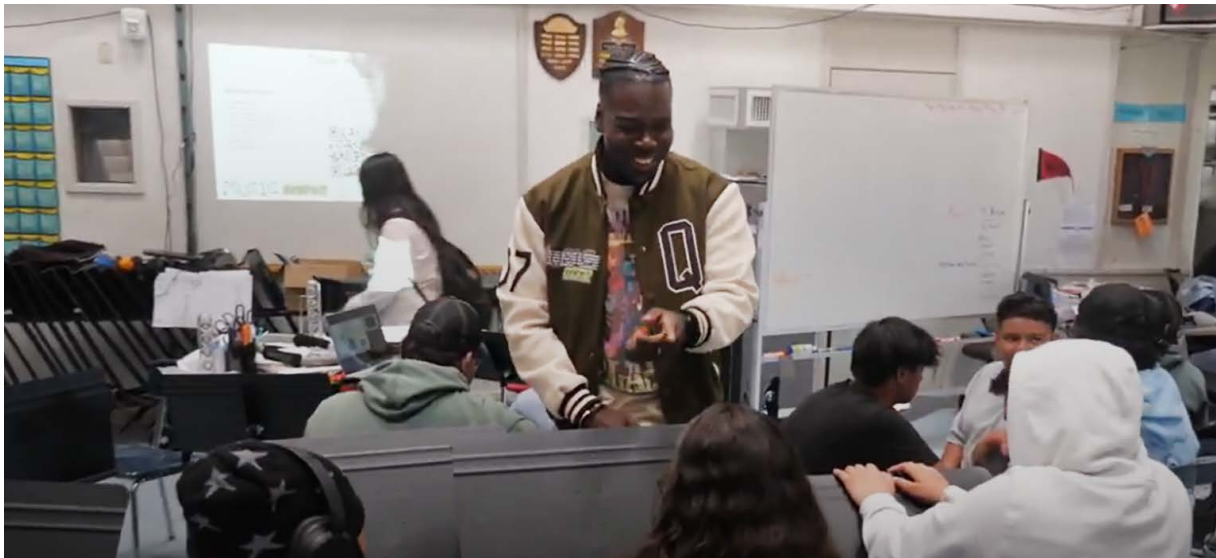
The workshop concludes with group performances, and students may choose to leave with a recording of their song to share.

#### DELIVERED BY

Music Notes

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for high school students.



Students with members of Music Notes at Highland Community School in Oakland.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 1

SCHOOLS SERVED

**I loved the atmosphere of everybody working together to make a [SR2S-themed] song. Mr. Q was very kind to everyone and helped anybody who needed help. Overall, I loved it very much.**

*Student at Tennyson High School in Hayward who participated in the Songwriting Workshop*

# Classroom Encouragement Activities

## Transportation Storytime

### WHAT IS IT?

Transportation Storytime is available for classrooms ranging from Pre-K to grade 5. The SR2S team has a collection of transportation-related books for reading to students, as well as engaging supplemental activities such as trivia. Youth Task Force members, student volunteers from local high schools, often help deliver Storytime sessions, engaging with young students, who are excited for the visit from these older role models. Each Storytime session is about 30 minutes long.

### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators  
High School Youth Task Force members

### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for elementary schools.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

**13**  
SCHOOLS SERVED

**1,604**  
STUDENTS SERVED



Students at Love Elementary in Alameda listen as a Youth Task Force member from the Alameda Community Learning Center reads during Transportation Storytime.

“Thank you so much to our volunteer readers! I heard some great feedback from teachers today! Our students loved talking with the volunteers and hearing the stories read aloud.”

*Parent Champion*

## Transportation Activities

### Travel Training

#### WHAT IS IT?

Travel Training workshops use fun, hands-on lessons and activities to encourage students to use active and shared transportation to get around. During the 2024-2025 school year, the Travel Training curriculum underwent a major overhaul to refresh its content, increase engagement for students and teachers, and address the transportation challenges that today's middle and high school students face. The result is Your Health, Your City,

Your Planet, a dynamic and holistic travel training curriculum that empowers students to navigate their communities with confidence, care, and responsibility.

#### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators  
Program Team

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is best suited for middle and high schools.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 9

SCHOOLS SERVED

# 1,040

STUDENTS SERVED



Program staff collaborate on the development of the updated Travel Training curriculum.

## Transportation Activities

### Rail Safety Training

#### WHAT IS IT?

The Rail Safety program was developed to address the high incidence of fatalities and serious injuries from collisions due to trespassing onto railroad right-of-way. The SR2S Program provides student programming to raise awareness about trespassing and teach safe behaviors when walking or bicycling near railroads. The Program also offers materials for raising awareness, as well as safety education for adults. These

resources include downloadable fact sheets, posters, and flyers.

#### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators  
Program Team

#### AUDIENCE

This activity is suited for all ages but is particularly focused on schools and communities located near railroad tracks.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 2

SCHOOLWIDE INITIATIVES

# 576

STUDENTS SERVED



Rail Safety trainings raise awareness about safe behavior near railroad tracks.

# Transportation Activities

## Go Green Curriculum

### WHAT IS IT?

Go Green is an interactive, Common Core aligned presentation that teaches students about climate change and the environmental effects of transportation. Students learn the benefits of active and shared transportation, as well as how to be responsible travelers and promote transportation change within their communities.

### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators  
Program Team

### AUDIENCE

This activity is suited for all students.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 2

SCHOOLS SERVED

# 238

STUDENTS SERVED



Student created artwork from Chadbourne Elementary School in Fremont about active transportation options.

## Encouragement Activities

Encouragement events inspire and motivate families to try a new mode for the first time or celebrate families' ongoing commitment to active or shared transportation. These events bring together the school community to celebrate the joy of walking, biking, transit use, and carpooling. Through fun and engaging activities and messaging, these events also build a school culture that recognizes active and shared transportation as contributing to individual wellness and academic success, social connection, and environmental stewardship.

Each year, the SR2S Program implements three countywide encouragement events: International Walk and Roll to School Day in October, the Golden Sneaker Contest in late winter/early spring, and Bike to School Day in May. Each of these events is a chance for schools to shine a spotlight on active and shared transportation and create positive and memorable experiences for students and families.

**Walk and Roll to School Day went amazing. There were a lot of families that rode their bikes or walked to school who don't normally get to school that way. Kids were saying they really liked getting to school that way more than driving before**

*Staff Champion at Jackson Avenue Elementary School in Livermore*

Students from Niles Elementary School in Fremont posing with their bikes during a Bike to School Day event.



## Countywide Encouragement Events

### International Walk and Roll to School Day

SR2S Program staff continued the long tradition of starting off the school year with International Walk and Roll to School Day (IWR2SD) on October 9th, 2024. During this one-day event, students and families are encouraged to take active or shared transportation to school. The event is also an opportunity to include the wider community in SR2S programming, with elected officials and partner organization involvement. Ongoing events such as Walking School Buses, and Bike Trains were encouraged as add-ons to IWR2SD. In-person educational events, such as a BikeMobile visit, Walk and Roll concerts, and Bike Rodeos were also encouraged activities that helped students prepare for the event and reinforce IWR2SD messaging. Some event highlights for 2024 were:

- » **At Alameda High School two students in the Youth Task Force created a Safe Routes Club and hosted IWR2SD for the first time since the school registered for the SR2S program in 2019.**



Students at Encinal Jr High School in Alameda pass out snacks to fellow students as they arrive during an IWR2SD event.

- » **Castro Valley Elementary organized a schoolwide Walking School Bus the morning of the event. Students were excited to gather and walk to school together. About 75 students joined and cheered “CVE is the place to be!”**

**DELIVERED BY**  
Site Coordinators  
Program Team

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**10,000+**  
STUDENTS WALKED

**4,300+**  
STUDENTS BIKED

**3,000+**  
STUDENTS CARPOOLED

**1,000+**  
STUDENTS USED SCHOOL  
BUSES OR TRANSIT

**122**  
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

**11**  
ALAMEDA CTC  
COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATED

## Countywide Encouragement Events

### Golden Sneaker Contest

From March 3 through March 14, 2025, thousands of students in Alameda County participated in the Golden Sneaker Contest, the second Big Event of the 2024-25 school year. This two-week-long contest encouraged students, parents, teachers, and administrators to engage in active or shared transportation when going to school. These activities included walking, biking, rolling (using a mobility device), skateboarding, using a scooter, riding public transportation, and carpooling.

Over the contest period, participating classrooms recorded the number of students who participated in these activities. At the end of the contest, the classroom at each school with the highest percentage of participation received student and classroom prizes. Highlights of the 2025 Golden Sneaker Contest included the following:

- » Valley View Elementary in Pleasanton kicked off a Walking School Bus that now runs every Thursday.
- » Five new schools participated in the contest along with five schools returning for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- » Oakland High School students wrote and produced a music video discussing the negative effects of air pollution and encouraging peers to walk, bike, carpool, or take the bus during the contest. Students also hosted lunchtime activities such as a Clipper Card sign up station and a Bike Blender Smoothie party.

#### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators  
Program Team



Students at Lockwood STEAM in Oakland pose with their Golden Sneaker Trophy at the end of the Golden Sneaker Contest. The school won the Platinum Sneaker Award for the highest proportion of student participation in the contest across Alameda County, with 65 percent of students using active and shared transportation.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**79**  
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

**600+**  
CLASSROOMS PARTICIPATED

**15,400+**  
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

**“The Golden Sneaker Contest was a big hit! We made posters and really hyped it up and everyone was on board with participating! The traffic in the front loop went way down and has seemed to decrease a bit since the week of walking/rolling/carpooling to school.**

*Administrator Champion at Valley View Elementary in Pleasanton*

## Countywide Encouragement Events

### Reboot Your Commute (High School)

Between February and March of 2025, the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program hosted a multi-modal encouragement event for high school students, Reboot Your Commute (RYC). Led by student leaders at each participating school, the event encouraged high school students to use active and shared modes of transportation - including biking, walking, rolling, taking transit, or carpooling - to get to school.

The goal of Reboot Your Commute was to create a schoolwide conversation about the impact of travel choices on our health, safety, community, and environment. Student leaders facilitated events at their school by setting up welcome tables and creating spaces for their peers to share thoughts and preferences around active transportation. Each welcome table also included either a Trivia Wheel or a Bike Blender to increase fun, excitement, and enthusiasm.

This year, instead of mode tracking, student leaders focused on creating opportunities for deeper conversations about why students use different modes of transportations.

Students shared many reasons for using active and shared transportation, as a way to:

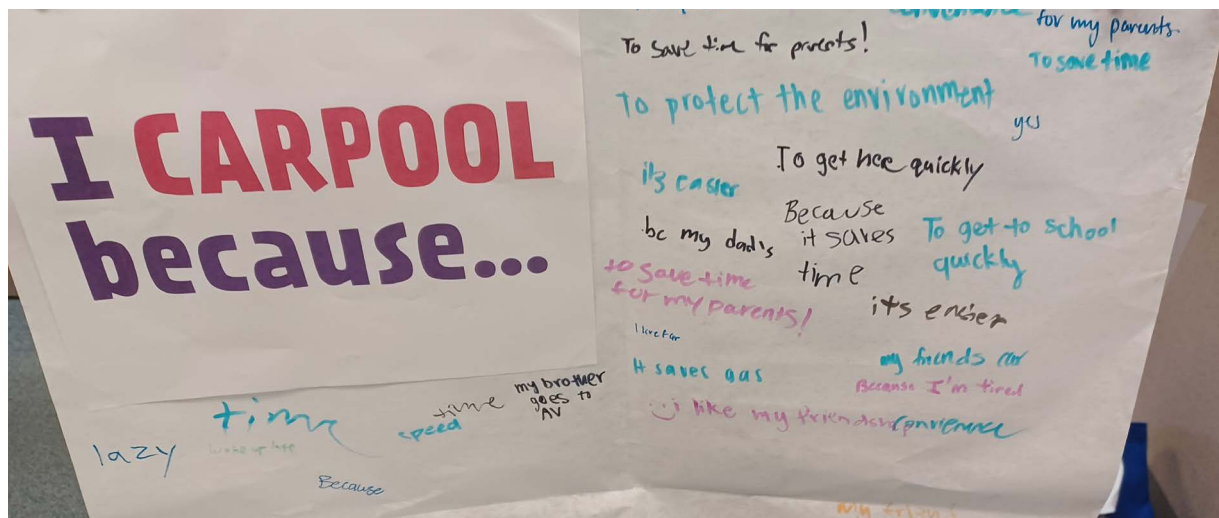
- » Help the environment
- » Feel energized in the morning
- » Spend time with friends
- » Save money

**DELIVERED BY**  
Site Coordinators  
Program Team

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

# 13

HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED



High School Task Force members set up stations during Reboot Your Commute for students to share stories about why they chose to carpool, take transit, walk, or bike to school. Above, students from Washington High School in Fremont share why they carpool to school.

## Countywide Encouragement Events

### Bike to School Day

On Thursday, May 15th, 2025 the Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program celebrated the countywide “Bike to School Day” (B2SD). Bike to School Day provides opportunity for students, families, and school staff to celebrate biking as a school community, distribute incentives, and spread the bike fun. Bike to School Day is also an opportunity to strengthen connections between bike partners and advocates in the community and the Alameda County SR2S Program. This year, B2SD coincided with the Bay Area’s “Bike to Wherever Day,” which spread the fun to the whole community.

Many schools organize additional events and services alongside B2SD such as BikeMobile, Bike Rodeos, Ped Rodeos, Concerts, and Bike Trains. These programs and services can help promote safe multimodal travel to school and within communities. This year, highlights from Bike to School Day included:

- » Yu Ming Charter (Alameda County Office of Education) launched their first bike train to their middle school campus, in addition to their regular elementary school bike train.

- » Amelia Earhart Elementary in Alameda hosted their inaugural bike train, which included two converging routes. This school also had the highest participation rates, with 165 participants.
- » Niles Elementary (Fremont USD) hosted AC Transit Vice President and Alameda CTC Commissioner Diane Shaw, in addition to participating students and families.

**DELIVERED BY**  
Site Coordinators  
Program Team



Families from Chabot Elementary in Oakland join a Bike Train on the way to school.

#### BY THE NUMBERS:

**38**  
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

**2,400+**  
STUDENTS BIKED TO SCHOOL

**680**  
STUDENTS SCOOTERED OR  
SKATEBOARDED TO SCHOOL

**We’ve had such an overflow of riders this year that we had to install another set of bike racks on our campus.**

*Staff Champion at Will C. Wood Middle School in Alameda*

## Ongoing Encouragement Events

Ongoing encouragement events and activities are those that occur multiple times throughout the school year. These activities can be piloted as part of a countywide event (like International Walk and Roll to School Day), building interest and engagement among families.

### Walking School Buses and Bike Trains

A Walking School Bus is an organized group of students who walk to school together with adult leaders, while Bike Trains are the cycling equivalent. These regular events are fun and engaging ways to engage the school community in active transportation while increasing safety and visibility through traveling in a larger group. They can include activities such as bike trivia, theme days, games such as "I spy" or "carpool count," and prize giveaways from community partners.

#### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators

# 16

SCHOOLS HOSTED  
WALKING SCHOOL  
BUSES

# 13

SCHOOLS HOSTED  
BIKE TRAINS

### Ongoing Walk and Roll Days

While International Walk and Roll to School Day is a one-time annual event, ongoing Walk and Roll Days take place on a weekly or monthly basis. These recurring events 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.

#### DELIVERED BY

Site Coordinators

# 97

SCHOOLS HOSTED  
WALK AND ROLL  
DAYS



Valley View Elementary School in Pleasanton started a Walking School Bus as part of the Golden Sneaker Contest in 2025 that now runs every Thursday. Above, a student leader holds a poster promoting the Golden Sneaker Contest at their Walking School Bus kickoff.

**The Walking School Bus is a great way to build community and meet other families." I wanted to pay it forward and help other families get to school after my child got lost walking alone and other parents helped her.**

*Parent and Walking School Bus Leader at Valley View Elementary in Pleasanton*

## High School Program

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

At the high school level, SR2S builds on its core elements of safety education, encouragement activities, and community engagement, while shifting its focus more toward student leadership and independence. While elementary and middle school programs emphasize foundational safety skills, building confidence and excitement, and family involvement, high school programming provides students with more opportunities to take on active roles as leaders, advocates, and role models for shared and active transportation within their schools and broader communities.

During the 2024–25 school year, 45 of the 64 eligible high schools in Alameda County participated in the Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program.

### Youth Task Force

The Youth Task Force provides a forum for Alameda County high school students to learn how to lead SR2S events and activities 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 strengthens the capacity and sustainability of the SR2S Program.

During the 2024-25 school year, **there were four SR2S Youth Task Force meetings involving schools across the county, with 63 participants** in the meetings over the course of the year.

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. Several meetings also included Direct Service Providers, which created opportunities for Youth Task Force Members to connect with professionals in the SR2S and active transportation fields, ask questions, and share stories and feedback about their experiences.

### Countywide Encouragement Events for High Schools

Youth Task Force members worked with their classmates to plan and host countywide encouragement events at their schools.

- » 19 schools that serve high school students\* participated in International Walk and Roll Day.
- » 13 schools that serve high school students\* participated in Reboot Your Commute.
- » 11 schools that serve high school students\* participated in Bike to School Day.



**Oakland High School students tabling during the Golden Sneakers Contest.**

\* This number includes both high schools and combined-grade schools that serve high school students.

# 4 Mode Choice



## Overview

One of the key program objectives is to increase the number of students who use active or shared transportation modes to get to and from school. Since fall 2011, the SR2S Program has been collecting data in order to understand impacts and continuously improve the program.

Increasing the proportion of active and shared trips is an important goal of the SR2S Program. This shift is known to curb transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, reduce congestion, improve health, and benefit the community in other ways.

Mode split tracking is one important part of measuring the effectiveness of the SR2S Program. Along with other information from participants, changes in student travel patterns can provide insight into program impacts and how the program encourages and empowers students and their families to walk, bike, carpool, or take transit to school.

## Defining Modes

### Active Modes

Walking, biking, and rolling



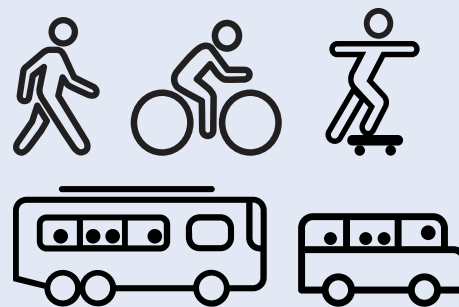
### Shared Modes

Carpooling, taking the school bus, or taking transit



### Green Modes

Active and shared modes combined



## Data Collection

The SR2S Program collects travel behavior data from several main sources:

- » **Student hand tallies** are conducted annually by teachers (or students themselves, in the case of high schools) on a typical school day. The survey asks students to share how they arrived at school and how they plan to get home. Comparing hand tally results over the years helps program staff track whether the program is successfully shifting trips to active and shared modes. Hand tally results are available online as part of the annual School Snapshots.
- » **Caregiver surveys** are sent home to families every other year in backpack mail or via a link to an online survey. Surveys ask caregivers how their children get to and from school, as well as opinion questions about mode choice, attitudes about active and shared transportation, and their participation in the SR2S Program. The most recent caregiver survey took place in spring 2025.

- » **Champion and administrator surveys** are conducted toward the end of each school year and are a chance for participating SR2S Champions and school staff to provide feedback on the Program and their school's participation in it. These surveys gather additional information about perceptions and attitudes toward green modes of transportation, as well as barriers and challenges to implementing SR2S Program elements.
- » **Focus groups** with Champions, school staff, caregivers, and Program staff also provide an opportunity to reflect on the Program and their participation in it.
- » **School participation data** is also an important part of data collection. Event and activity tracking takes place consistently throughout the school year, allowing Program staff to monitor which schools are participating and how many students are being served by various Program elements.

### DELIVERED BY

Program Evaluation Team

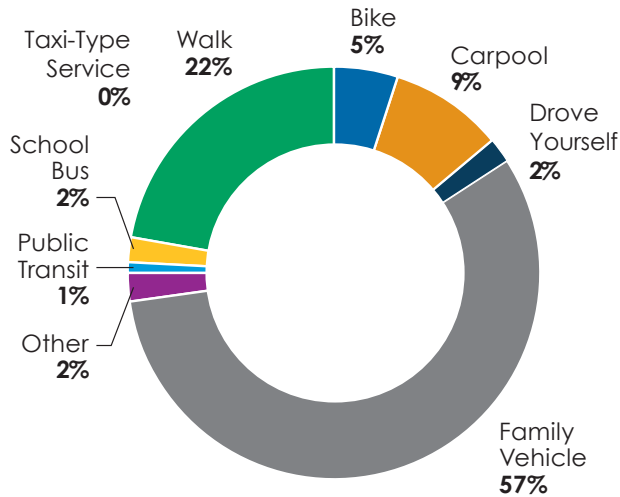


Students at Madison Elementary School in San Leandro place stickers on a mode chart poster based on how they traveled to school for International Walk and Roll to School Day.

# How Students Get to School

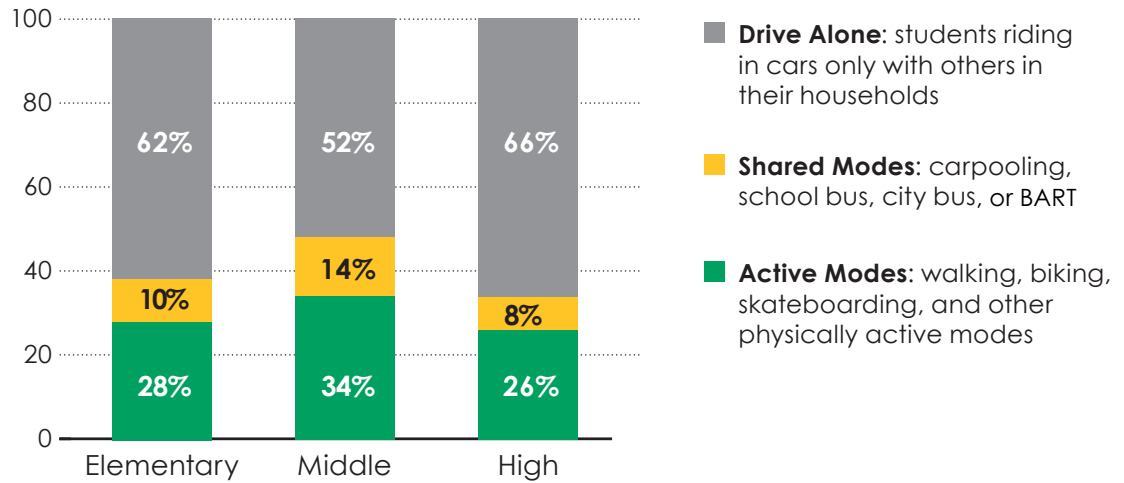
Hand tally data for the 2024-25 school year showed that, among surveyed classrooms countywide, more than half of student trips to and from school were made by family vehicle. As **Figure 3** illustrates, **about 22 percent of trips were made by walking, and 9 percent were carpools.** **Figure 4** shows the proportion of students in each school type that used active modes, used shared modes and drove alone countywide.

**Figure 3. Mode Split for Countywide School Trips, 2024-25 Hand Tally Data\***



\* Includes representative data from 64 out of 311 schools enrolled in the SR2S Program. These schools collected hand tally data during the 2024-25 school year.

**Figure 4. Mode Split by School Type (2024-25)**



- Drive Alone:** students riding in cars only with others in their households
- Shared Modes:** carpooling, school bus, city bus, or BART
- Active Modes:** walking, biking, skateboarding, and other physically active modes

Source: 2024-25 Hand Tally Data for all Available Schools. Note: Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

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

As shown in **Figure 4**, during the 2024-25 school year, elementary and high school students reported being driven (or driving) to school at higher rates than middle school students.

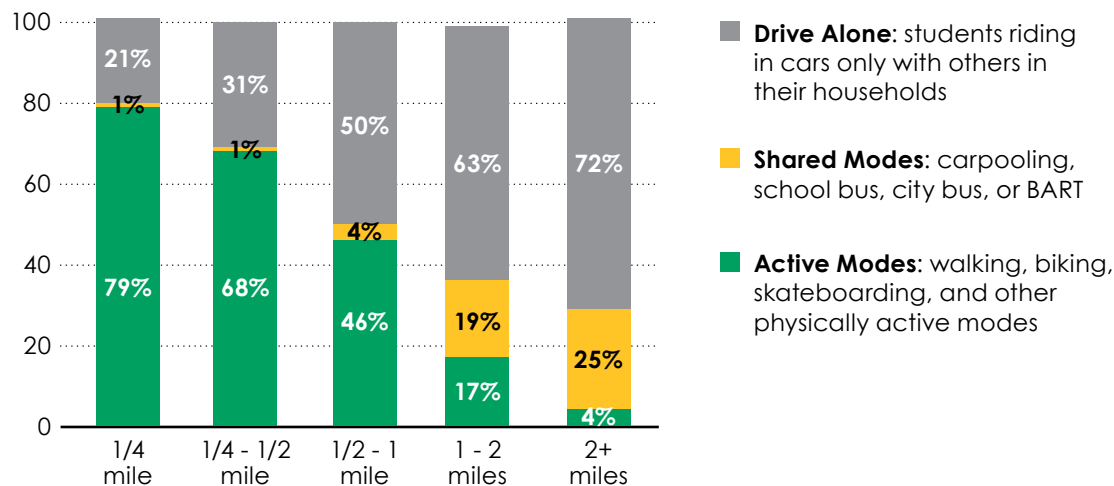
Middle school students were slightly more likely than other ages to use active and shared modes to get to school.

## Distance from School

As shown in **Figure 5**, families are more likely to use active modes to travel to school if they live closer to campus: **79 percent of the families living within a quarter mile of the school used active modes**, but only 68 percent of students who live a quarter mile to a half mile from the school used active modes. Among families who lived more than two miles from school, 72 percent reported driving alone to school, while just over one percent of families who lived within a quarter mile reported driving alone.

There is potential for the program to reduce driving trips among families living within a quarter mile of the school. The families who live slightly further away present the best opportunity to shift trips to active or shared transportation.

**Figure 5. Mode Split by Distance from School**



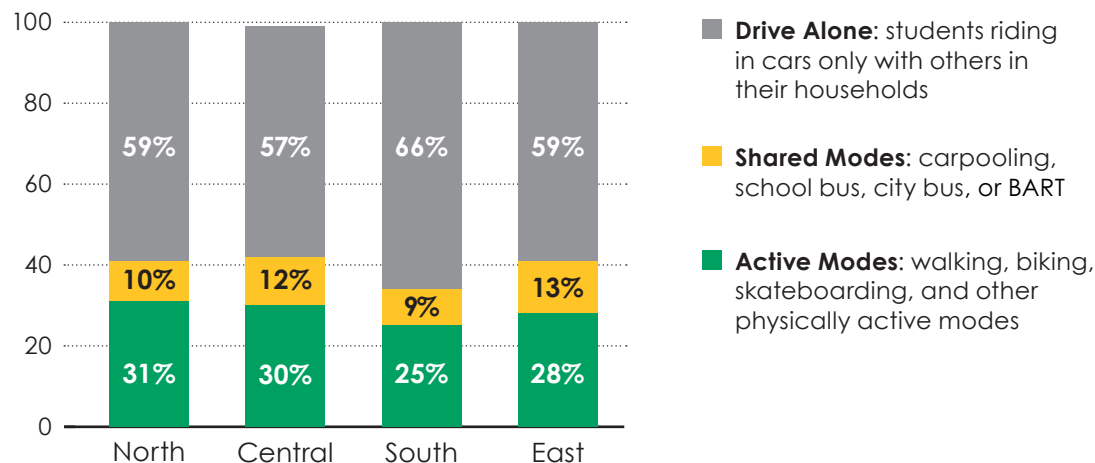
Source: 2024-25 Caregiver Survey. Note: Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

## Student Travel by Planning Area

Alameda CTC divides Alameda County into four planning areas that vary greatly in geographic, population and land use characteristics, as well as school travel habits (see **Figure 6**).

- » **Schools in the North Planning Area had the highest percentage of students who walk, bike, skateboard, or use other active modes (31 percent).**
- » The South Planning Area reported the highest percentage of families driving alone to school (66 percent).
- » 13 percent of students in the East Planning Area, 12 percent of students in the Central Planning Area and 10 percent of students in the North Planning Area used shared transportation modes, which were slightly higher than the South Planning Area (9 percent).

**Figure 6.** Mode Split by Planning Area, 2024-25 Hand Tally Data



### Alameda CTC Planning Areas

**North:** Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Piedmont

**Central:** Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Hayward, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo

**South:** Fremont, Newark, and Union City

**East:** Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton

# 5 Positive Safety Impacts



# Positive Safety Impacts

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

All students deserve to get to school safely. Per the 2017 goals and desired program outcomes adopted by Alameda CTC Commissioners, the SR2S Program has a focus on identifying safety concerns and infrastructure barriers that prevent students and families from walking, biking, carpooling, or using transit to travel to schools.

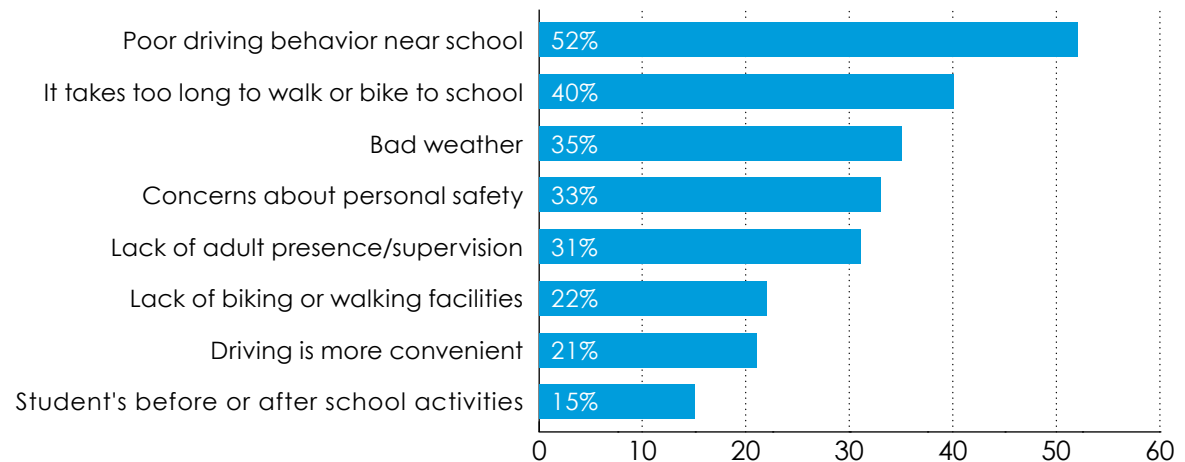
For caregivers, the perception that active and shared travel are dangerous often deters families from walking or biking to school (**Figure 7**). Program staff work to engage caregivers as the transportation decision makers via strategic communications campaigns and targeted education to address these concerns.

Additionally, school safety assessments (also known as walk audits) are an opportunity for SR2S Program staff to identify physical barriers and safety concerns around schools and recommend safety improvements for cities and school 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.

These strategic communications campaigns and school safety improvements can be combined with the education activities outlined in Chapter 3 to increase safe student and family walking and biking behaviors.

**Figure 7.** Caregiver Concerns with Walking or Biking to School



Source: 2024-25 Caregiver Survey.

Note: The numbers shown on the chart indicate the percentage of caregiver survey respondents who expressed that concern.

Over 844 caregivers were surveyed during the course of the 2024-25 school year to better understand their perceptions, priorities, and concerns related to children walking and biking to school. These surveys are conducted every two years.

The most popular reason why survey respondents said they would walk or bike with their family was because it encouraged an active, healthy lifestyle. Other reasons included spending time with family, having fun together, and minimizing crashes and congestion (Figure 8).

As illustrated in Figure 9, among the caregivers surveyed about their perception of students walking or biking to school, most families (about 75 percent) strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that walking and biking to school was important for student's health. Another important motivation was that students had fun walking and biking to school. A little over 50 percent of families wished to walk or bike to school more often.

Figure 8. Reasons Caregivers Allow or Consider Walking or Biking with Children

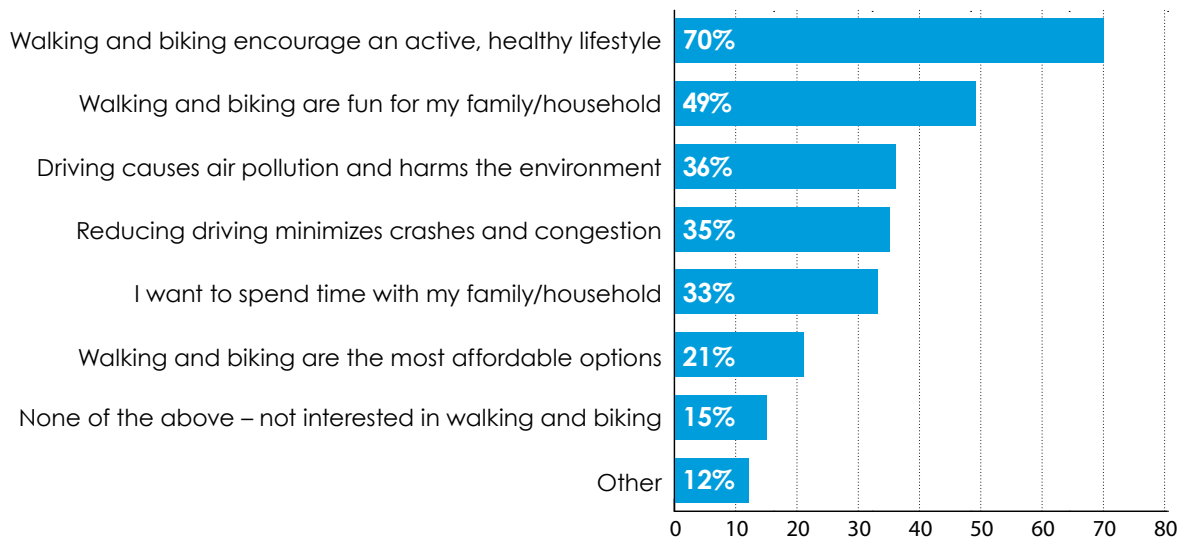
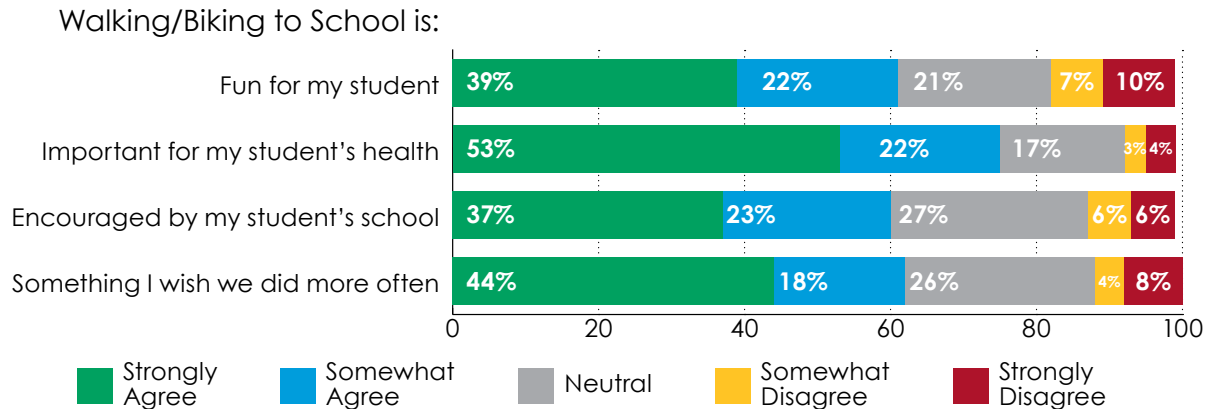


Figure 9. Caregiver Perceptions of Walking and Biking to/from School



## School Safety Assessments

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. As part of a school safety assessment, planners and engineers on the SR2S 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.

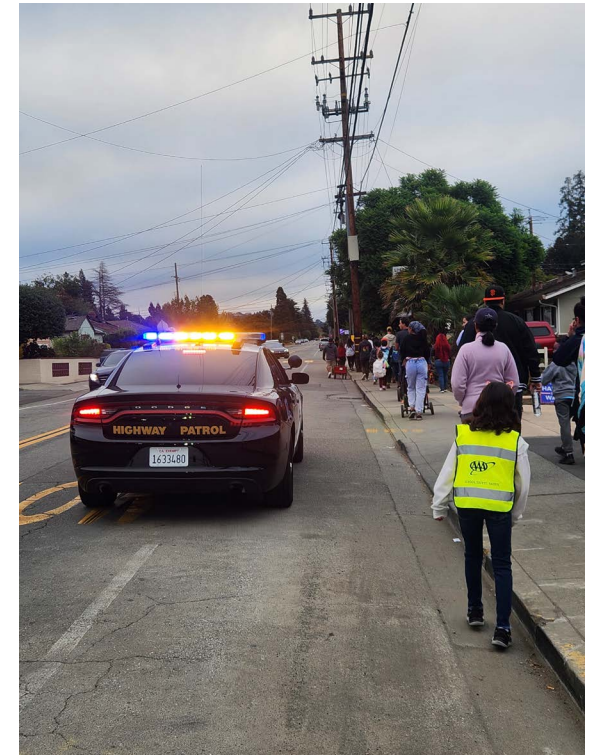
Recently, the Alameda SR2S Technical Engineering Team has been working to make this process more inclusive of community feedback. One example of this is that SR2S staff worked with local jurisdiction staff to develop an interactive online input map. This engagement tool enables greater participation in school safety assessments by allowing users to comment in four languages: English, Spanish, Farsi, and Chinese.

### 2024-25 School Safety Assessments

The Program met its annual goals by completing seven school safety assessments during the 2024-25 school year. Over the Program's history, **the SR2S Program and partner agencies have conducted school safety assessments at 252 schools, reaching approximately 85 percent of schools currently enrolled in the SR2S Program.**

**DELIVERED BY**  
Technical Engineering Team

**7**  
**SCHOOL SAFETY**  
**ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED**



**School Safety Assessments involve members of the community as well as local agencies involved in issues impacting student safety. Steps should be taken to include as many voices as possible, including translating materials into multiple languages.**

## Planning and Engineering Technical Assistance

As part of school safety efforts, SR2S Program staff provide technical assistance for schools upon request, often as a follow-up to the school safety assessment. A large part of the Program's Technical Assistance consists of creating Recommended Routes to School maps (as shown in **Figure 10**), which provide students and their families with a resource for planning their walking or biking routes. This school year, the Technical Assistance team worked to improve accessibility of their Recommended Routes map, creating a product that can be printed in black and white or color and that is colorblindness-friendly. Through these resources, as well as its other educational elements, **the Program is hoping to reach more caregivers and families, helping them make decisions about how to travel to and from school safely.**

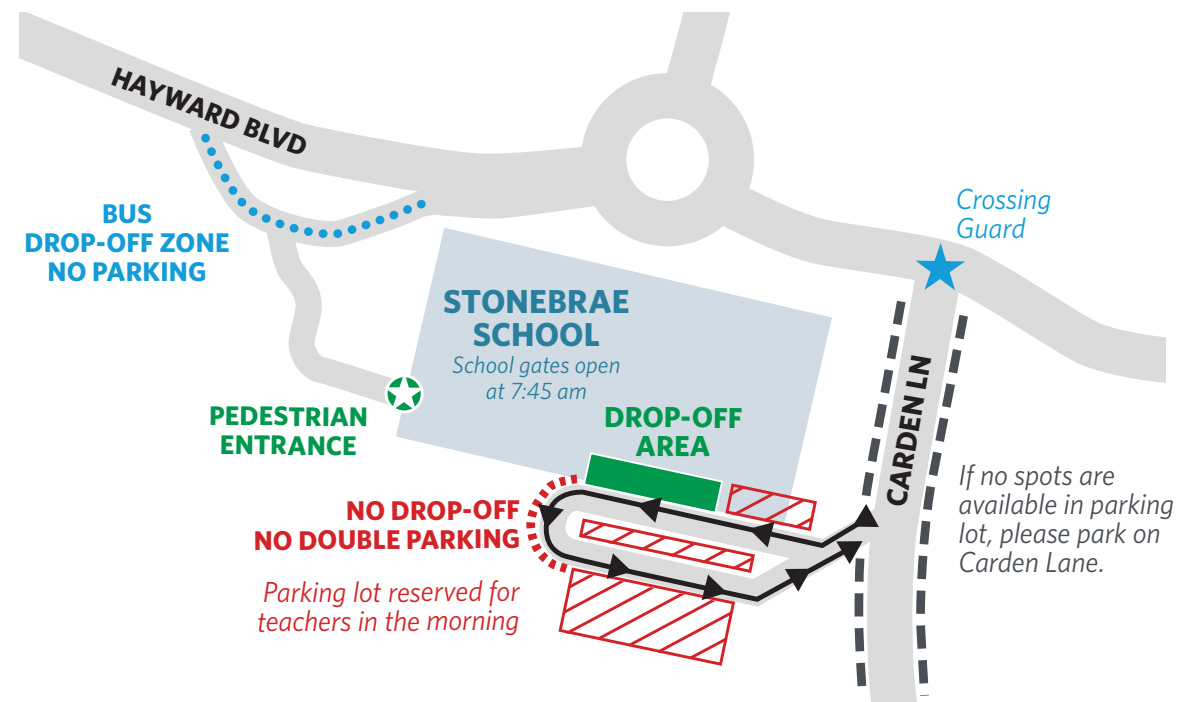
Other Technical Assistance offerings include Walking School Bus and Bike Train route maps, drop-off procedures and tip sheets, posters and flyers for safely navigating railroad crossings, and social media messaging.

### DELIVERED BY

Technical Engineering Team

# Follow the Stonebrae Elementary Traffic Pattern

**BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



**Figure 10.** SR2S Program staff worked with Stonebrae Elementary in Hayward to develop this map training parents and caregivers on the drop-off and pickup circulation pattern.

# 5 Supporting Under-Resourced School Communities



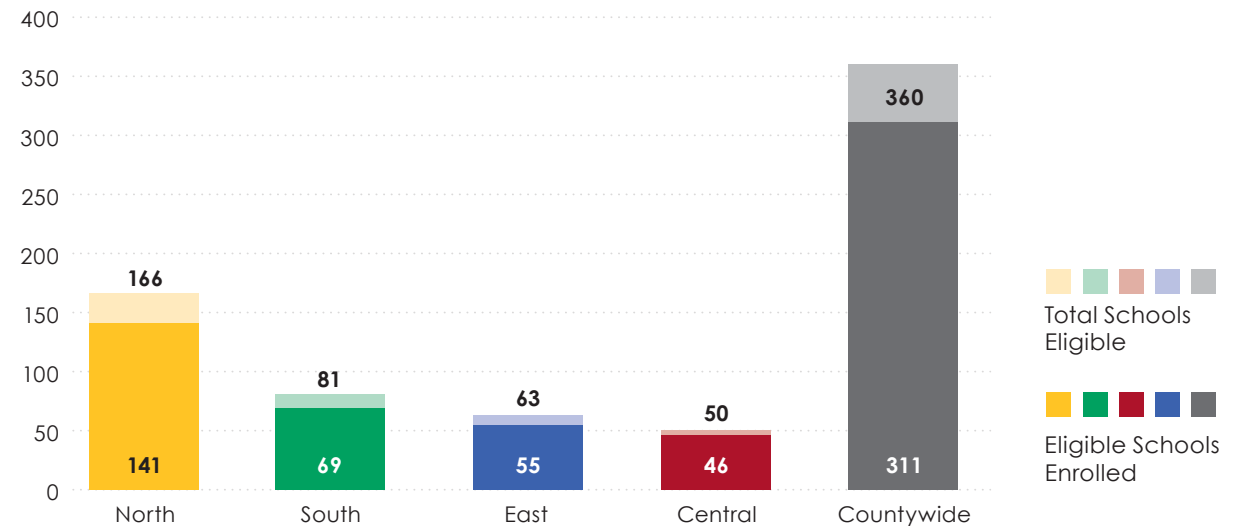
# Supporting Under-Resourced School Communities

The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Program works collaboratively with school communities across the county to address their unique challenges and support students and families in living healthy, active lives. The Program is committed to ensuring that schools with the greatest barriers to participation receive the resources and support needed to fully engage in Safe Routes to Schools activities.

## Program Approach

Access to safe, reliable transportation options is especially important for under-resourced communities, where families often rely more heavily on walking, biking, and public transit for daily travel. The SR2S Program addresses these needs by distributing services across Alameda County while providing additional support to schools facing greater barriers.

**Figure 11.** Number of Enrolled Schools by Planning Area, 2024-25 School Year



Countywide access means reaching schools in all regions of Alameda County with SR2S programming and Site Coordinator support. **Figure 11** illustrates the current geographic distribution of enrolled schools across the county.

In addition to countywide access, the Program strategically directs enhanced programmatic and technical assistance to schools serving higher proportions of low-income students and students of color, as well as to schools facing systemic challenges

to participation. This approach balances broad geographic coverage with targeted investment where needs are greatest.

Schools in historically under-resourced communities often experience challenges such as limited staff capacity, safety concerns, language barriers, and reduced access to transportation resources. These factors can make it more difficult for families to participate in Safe Routes to Schools activities, even when interest is strong.

In response, the SR2S Program prioritizes strategies such as culturally responsive outreach, multilingual programming, material supports (e.g., helmets and safety materials), and flexible engagement approaches tailored to each school community. Addressing real and perceived safety concerns, including traffic safety and personal security, remains an ongoing priority.

## The Access Safe Routes Program

From 2019 to 2023, the SR2S Program implemented the Access Safe Routes Program, a pilot initiative funded through a regional Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant. The Access Program concentrated resources on schools with high collision rates and significant socioeconomic need, with the goal of reducing barriers to enrollment and increasing participation in SR2S activities.

Over four years, the Access Safe Routes Program worked intensively with 59 high-need schools, providing enhanced outreach, site coordination, and tailored facilitation support. The pilot strengthened

relationships with under-resourced school communities, built local capacity, and deepened the Program's understanding of the conditions necessary for sustained participation and long-term success.

## Priority Schools Framework

With the completion of the Access Safe Routes pilot, the Program transitioned to a new framework for prioritizing support. Rather than operating as a separate pilot, the Program now identifies Priority Schools that receive enhanced services as part of core SR2S operations.

Priority schools are identified through a structured, data-informed process that combines quantitative indicators (such as the proportion of students receiving free or reduced-price meals and overall demographic data) with qualitative factors including school capacity, historic participation, geographic distribution, and Site Coordinator workload.

This approach allows the Program to focus resources where they can have the greatest impact while maintaining balanced support across the county.

Drawing on lessons learned from the Access Program, SR2S staff work closely with these schools to build participation, strengthen school-based leadership, and organize activities that reflect each community's needs and capacity. The Program will continue refining this framework over time, using both data and on-the-ground experience to ensure that schools facing the greatest barriers remain a central focus of Safe Routes to Schools implementation in Alameda County.



**Students line up to practice bike handling and safety skills during a Bike Rodeo at Castro Valley Elementary School.**

# 6 Program Sustainability



# Program Sustainability

**The keys to making the Safe Routes to Schools Program sustainable over time are building strong institutional partnerships, relying on systems rather than individuals, supporting SR2S Champions and other volunteers, maintaining and increasing consistent funding, integrating SR2S into local policy, and of course, celebrating successes.**

Participation in the SR2S Program offers schools ample opportunities to build institutionalized, thriving SR2S culture within their school community. To be sustainable in the long term, the SR2S Program and its partner schools must address several challenges on an ongoing basis, including:

- » Changes in school leadership and level of program support capacity from school administrators
- » Competing priorities at schools and overburdened school staff
- » Turnover of volunteer SR2S Champions

Recognizing these challenges and developing solutions is fundamental to the long-term success of the SR2S Program.

This chapter outlines several components of the SR2S Program that are designed to support program sustainability: SR2S Task Forces, Champions, and school administrators.



Champions organized a “rock and roll to school” themed International Walk and Roll to School Day event at Bella Vista Elementary School in Oakland.

## SR2S Task Forces

SR2S Site Coordinators, school staff, parents, teachers, district and city staff, and students convene quarterly in district Task Forces to discuss strategies for promoting SR2S and implementing successful school programs. Participants share information about planned activities, partner together on events and brainstorm solutions to common challenges. The majority of Task Force meetings were held virtually during the 2024-25 school year.

**Task Forces met at the start of the school year and before each countywide encouragement event**, as shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 3.** Task Force Participation

Task Force	Average Participation (Schools and Cities)
Back to School	7
IWR2SD	9
Golden Sneaker	6
Bike to School Day	4

To ensure program sustainability, this year the Site Coordinator team decided to host eight "Back to School Task Forces" instead of individual "Back to School Meetings" for elementary and middle schools. This task force approach created an opportunity for Champions to learn and collaborate with each other across district lines, which typically did not happen in previous years.

During these meetings, returning Champions shared their experience with the Program, highlighting how different schools implement Safe Routes events, which allowed new (and existing) Champions the opportunity to learn about and consider different approaches to bringing the SR2S program to their school.

**I really enjoyed today's meeting. [The Site Coordinators'] and the rest of the task force's energy was contagious. I had no idea the [number] of resources we had available.**

*PTO Member at Jackson Avenue Elementary in Livermore*



Youth Task Force members staff an outreach table at a Reboot Your Commute event at Washington High School in Fremont.

## Safe Routes to Schools Champions

SR2S Champions are designated school staff, parent or staff volunteers, and high school students who are critical to program success. Champions host events, promote green transportation options and work with students on education and encouragement activities. Recruiting more Champions and ensuring that existing Champions are well-supported is essential for long-term program sustainability.

# 285

TOTAL SR2S CHAMPIONS

engaged with the program this year.

# 70%

OF ENROLLED SCHOOLS (219)

had at least one SR2S Champion.

## School Administrators

School administrator support and enthusiasm for the SR2S Program is another essential component of long-term program sustainability. The SR2S Program worked with principals across the county to set goals for their program and create strategies to achieve those goals.

# 76%

OF SURVEYED ADMINISTRATORS

believe that walking or biking to school is important for the health of their students.



SR2S participating schools are only as successful as the people behind them. Above, staff at Schafer Park Elementary School in Hayward show off their purple while setting up for a Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day event.

## Looking Forward to the 2025-26 School Year

**The Alameda County SR2S Program team is focused on deepening its impact at the schools it serves and supporting meaningful, lasting changes in how students and families travel to and from school. The Program is working to help enrolled schools build sustainable programs that require less ongoing support while reaching their communities in more impactful ways.**

During the past year, SR2S Program staff focused on strengthening school capacity and leadership to support long-term participation in the Program. This work emphasized helping schools move beyond one-time events toward regular, ongoing activities that foster sustained behavior change, improved student health, and safer school travel patterns over time. Much of the

success of these efforts is driven by dedicated SR2S Champions who are committed to bringing walking and biking into the daily culture of their school communities.

While adult Champions continue to play a critical role in advancing SR2S initiatives, youth leadership has also emerged as a powerful source of energy and innovation. The Youth Task Force has become an important platform for high school students to lead activities at their own schools, engage younger students, and help build the next generation of active transportation leaders, strengthening program sustainability from within.

**Looking ahead, the SR2S Program will continue to identify ways to support schools in deepening participation and building sustainable programs that reflect the unique needs and capacities of their communities. By supporting under-resourced schools, fostering both student and parent leadership, and supporting schools in developing a strong SR2S culture, the Program aims to create deeper, more durable impacts for students and families across Alameda County year after year.**



**Bike trains are a fun and social way to help students and families build a habit of active travel.**



**ALAMEDA COUNTY SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM  
2024-25 YEAR-END REPORT**

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