



What is Safe Routes to School?

A program to enable and encourage children in grades K-8, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation choice. The program encourages a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and facilitates the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution around elementary/middle schools.

This is done using the 6 E's: Engagement, Equity, Engineering, Encouragement, Education, and Evaluation. The goal of Safe Routes to School is the development of a school-based plan that will increase the safety and number of students walking and biking to school. Schools collect data from students and parents through surveys and assess the built environment near the school through walking and biking safety assessments. They use this information to help guide the development of their action plan. **The basic steps in the process are:**

1. **Register the school** with the Michigan Fitness Foundation. *Must be one grade K-8.*
2. **Designate a SRTS coordinator.** The coordinator is encouraged to participate in a free SRTS Training.
3. **Establish a SRTS team.** The members of the team will vary from school to school, but should include: a school administrator; a representative from the local unit of government (city, village, or county road commission); teachers; students; parents; and a local law enforcement official/officer. Other potential team members include someone from the local planning department & local business leaders.
4. **Assess attitudes and behaviors** related to walking and biking to school. Schools will survey parents and students to assess their behavior, beliefs, and attitudes regarding walking and biking to school.
5. **Assess the safety of walking and/or biking routes.** School teams will assess the physical environment around the school and along routes traveled by students to identify barriers to safe walking and biking.
6. **Develop a SRTS Action Plan.** The SRTS team will review findings from the walking audit and information collected through student and parent surveys to develop recommendations to encourage and enable students to walk to school on safe routes. The Action Plan will address education, encouragement, enforcement, equity, and engineering needs.

Staff members at the Safe Routes to School office are here to help! Please **contact your Grant Coordinator** for hands-on assistance during the planning process.

What does the application process look like?

SRTS hosts a federal grant application, managed by MDOT. Once the school goes through the above mentioned process they work with their team to create the application. The application will focus on fundable eligible infrastructure and non-infrastructure priorities.

Communities can apply for up to \$220,000 for infrastructure and \$10,000 for non-infrastructure per school.

Please view our website www.saferoutesmichigan.org for more information