

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL POLICIES



CORE IDEA

Through policy, you set up a strong structure that will institutionalize the Safe Routes to School program within local, regional, or state law or regulations.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PASS A STRONG SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL POLICY?



STATE

Establish a Safe Routes to School program in statute or regulation, articulate how the program will be managed; in some cases, create a fund to pay for it.



REGIONAL

Affirm commitment to Safe Routes to School infrastructure and non-infrastructure in funding decisions, commit to spending (some/specific percentage) TAP funds (or subsequent federal funding) on Safe Routes to School.



LOCAL

Pass a resolution or long term planning document expressing need and support for Safe Routes to School, detailing specific commitments and implementation steps.

Why is it necessary to pass Safe Routes to School policies?



Passing Safe Routes to School policies may significantly increase the likelihood that Safe Routes to School programs are sustainable in the long-term. A Safe Routes to School program or department within government creates a level of commitment and permanency for Safe Routes to School.



Young, Deborah R., Deborah R. Young Search for more papers by this author, Angie L. Cradock, Angie L. Cradock Search for more papers by this author, Amy A. Eyler, Amy A. Eyler Search for more papers by this author, Mark Fenton, et al. "Creating Built Environments That Expand Active Transportation and Active Living Across the United States: A Policy Statement From the American Heart Association," August 13, 2020. <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000878>.

HOW DO I JUSTIFY THIS?

Although current administrations may be amenable to Safe Routes to School, without passing a Safe Routes to School policy there is a risk that the program could be eliminated in the future, imperiling students on their trips to school.



HOW DO I DO THIS?

STATE

Pass legislation codifying Safe Routes to School into state law.

REGIONAL

As agencies tasked with awarding federal TAP dollars, a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) can pass a resolution dedicating a portion of its TAP funding (or subsequent federal funding) to Safe Routes to School projects.

LOCAL

A simple way to begin is by adopting a resolution that supports Safe Routes to School and sets out a variety of ways that the jurisdiction will support Safe Routes to School, including support for Safe Routes to School events, actions that can be taken by local agencies, and a commitment to revise existing policies to improve their support for Safe Routes to School. A strong policy spells out specific commitments and implementation steps that will be taken by the city or county. Another option is to develop a Safe Routes to School plan or incorporate Safe Routes to School in a comprehensive plan update.



CODIFYING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



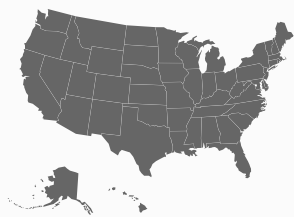
LOCAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
RESOLUTION EXAMPLES

- Cupertino, California [Safe Routes to School Resolution](#)
- Missoula, Montana [Safe Routes to School Resolution](#)
- Shawnee, Oklahoma [Safe Routes to School Master Plan](#)
- [Model local SRTS language](#) (page 35)



REGIONAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
PROGRAMS IN ACTION

- [East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission](#) runs a large and complex Safe Routes to School program, serving 59,000 students in close to 200 schools at dozens of school districts.
- [Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency](#), as the MPO for the Cleveland area, provides providing planning, implementation and resource sharing support to communities and schools throughout the region with a special emphasis on reaching out to communities and schools that meet equity criteria, which are eligible for additional planning, engineering and public engagement support.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL IN STATE LAW
EXAMPLES

- [California](#)’s Safe Routes to School is embedded within the statewide Active Transportation Program.
- [Hawaii](#): HI Rev Stat § 291C-3 (2017) established the Safe Routes to School program, including state and county-level coordinators, and HI Rev Stat § 291C-4 (2013) sets up a special fund for Safe Routes to School through dedicated traffic enforcement surcharges.
- [Minnesota](#): MSA 174.40 codified the program and appropriated state funding for both infrastructure and noninfrastructure.
- [Utah](#): Code 72-8-109 requires the Department of Transportation to establish a Safe Routes to School program and gives priority to routes in areas of low-income schools.

Sample Policy Language: Missoula, MT

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:
That this City Council endorses the following goal: All Missoula City school children who are able to walk or bike and who live within reasonable distances from school can get to school under their own power in reasonable safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
That this City Council will participate with other community organizations in developing and promoting strategies to implement this goal."

