

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School is a program that supports the use of physically active modes of transportation to and from school, and aims to help children in grades K-8 safely walk and bicycle to school through infrastructure improvements, education, enforcement, and promotional activities.

WHAT POPULATION BENEFITS?

Children in grades K-8 who switch from passive to active travel to school after their school adopts an active transport program.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED BENEFITS?

Relative to not implementing the strategy

Increase physical activity and, in turn, promote healthy child weight.



✓ Increase in physical activity



✓ Promote healthy child weight



WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS?

Relative to not implementing the strategy

The costs of implementing this strategy could be offset by savings from...

- ↓ Decrease in driving, parking, and vehicle ownership and operation costs
- ↓ Decrease in travel time for families using their own vehicles for transportation
- ↓ Decrease in pedestrian and bicycle injuries and vehicle crash costs
- ↓ Decrease in air, greenhouse gas, water, and noise pollution costs

WHAT ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES ARE NEEDED?

Activities	Resources	Who Leads?
Oversee implementation of Safe Routes to School program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time for Safe Routes to School coordinator(s) to oversee and manage implementation of the program Time for Safe Routes to School committee to select and provide guidance on projects, including advise and award grants, provide technical assistance to programs, communicate between Safe Routes to School programs and partners, and advocate for programs 	Safe Routes to School coordinator(s) and committee members
Attend Safe Routes to School committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time for Safe Routes to School committee members to attend meetings Travel costs for Safe Routes to School committee members 	Safe Routes to School committee members
Improve infrastructure around schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure project costs 	Local government or other organization and schools
Adopt key components of Safe Routes to School Framework (e.g., education, encouragement, equity, enforcement, and evaluation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-infrastructure project costs 	Local government or other organization and schools

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Selected CHOICES research briefs including cost-effectiveness metrics:

McCulloch SM, Barrett JL, Reiner JF, Cradock AL. *Wisconsin: Safe Routes to School* {Issue Brief}. Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Madison, WI, & East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Menasha, WI and the CHOICES Learning Collaborative Partnership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA; May 2021. Available at: <https://choicesproject.org/publications/brief-safe-routes-to-school-wisconsin>

Reiner J, Barrett J, Giles C, Cradock AL. *Houston: Safe Routes to School* {Issue Brief}. Houston Health Department, Houston, TX and the CHOICES Learning Collaborative Partnership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA; December 2019. Available at: <https://choicesproject.org/publications/brief-srts-houston-tx>

Pelletier J, Reiner J, Barrett J, Cradock AL, Giles C. *Minnesota: Safe Routes to School (SRTS)* {Issue Brief}. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), St. Paul, MN, and the CHOICES Learning Collaborative Partnership at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA; March 2019. Available at: <https://choicesproject.org/publications/brief-safe-routes-to-school-minnesota>

✓ Browse more CHOICES research briefs & reports in the CHOICES Resource Library at choicesproject.org/resource-library

SUGGESTED CITATION

CHOICES Strategy Profile: Safe Routes to School. CHOICES Project Team at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA; April 2022.

Adapted from the TIDieR (Template for Intervention Description and Replication) Checklist

This work is supported by The JPB Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U48DP006376). The information provided here is intended to be used for educational purposes. Links to other resources and websites are intended to provide additional information aligned with this educational purpose. The findings and conclusions are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or other funders.