

Safe Routes to School: Best Practices for School Officials

What Can We Do?

This factsheet provides a non-exclusive list of improvements that would directly or indirectly encourage more New Ulm students to walk or bike. These best practices are recommended by many different agencies or school boards across the US to support Safe Routes to School programs.

Infrastructure



Sheltered Bike Racks

Installing shelters over bike racks, schools can create a meeting place and extend biking by almost one month on each side of the season.



Scooter/Skateboard

Racks – providing racks for other modes of transportation can encourage more students to reap the benefits of active transportation.

Advocacy

Higher Visibility Crosswalks - current parallel line crosswalks are less visible than barred or zebra-striped crosswalks, according to transportation studies.

25 mph Speed Limit – reducing speeds to 25 mph greatly improves pedestrian safety and reduces accidents.



Programs



Walking School Busses – either as a one-time event, or on a weekly basis, walking school busses can prove to kids and parents the value of walking while educating them on safety and which routes to take to school.

Programs - continued



Bike Trains – similar to walking school busses, bike trains are a good way to teach safety and allow kids to receive benefits of activity.

Teach Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum – bike MN has developed a great curriculum for kids in grades k-8. The curriculum satisfies both health and physical education state standards, while also teaching safety skills and knowledge.

Incentive/Engagement programs – incorporate walking and biking with existing good behavior programs. Individual, classroom, and school scale programs could encourage more participation in active transportation and SRTS activities.

Planning and Policies

Dedicate Walking/Biking Routes – by establishing dedicated routes to school, children and parents can plan safer trips. This action has been associated with increased walking and biking rates.

Safe Routes to School Policy – in the future, school decisions can factor in the needs of walkers and bikers. Standardized, and clear, expectations can encourage more interest in walking and biking for years to come. An example; ensure future improvements to school grounds include the needs of walkers, bikers, and others while encouraging increased active transportation.

Join a City Wide Task Force – selecting a teacher, parent, or concerned faculty to represent the school on a city wide task force can help organize actions on a higher level; solving issues all schools face together.

Create a School SRTS Team – identify a group of teachers, parents, and staff that is willing to volunteer time to SRTS related events or initiatives.



References

Safe Routes to School National Partnership - Fact Sheets:

<http://saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Primer-for-School-Boards-and-Principals.pdf>

http://saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Lib_of_Res/SR2S_Rural_making%20SR%20work_20150331.pdf