

Chapter 6—Enforcement

6.5 Enforcement of Safe Routes to School Programs



Introduction

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program gives community leaders, schools, and parents the opportunity to improve safety around schools and encourage more children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bike to school safely. By increasing the number of students walking and biking to school, the program helps to reduce traffic congestion around schools and improve health and the environment; in return communities become more livable for everyone ([The National Center for Safe Routes to School](#)).

There are five areas that are covered by a successful Safe Routes to School program. The five E's include: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation. This section will focus on enforcement.

Enforcement

In regard to SRTS programs, enforcement strategies are important to ensure that all roadway users obey traffic laws, behave safely, and share the road with one another. By providing effective enforcement around schools, parents and children are safer in walking and biking to their destinations. Enforcement strategies of the SRTS program are often focused on speeding, non-yielding behaviors, or distracted driving and walking. However, it is important to note that in order to be successful, the other E's must be included as part of an enforcement effort. As such, safety awareness education is a key component of enforcement. Enforcement therefore doesn't stop with the police officers, but includes students, parents, adult school crossing guards, school personnel, and community watch programs who all work with local and state law enforcement agencies.

Benefits of school zone enforcement include the following:

- Increases awareness of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Improves driver behavior
- Helps children follow traffic rules
- Decreases parent perceptions of danger

Examples of good SRTS enforcement programs are:

- AAA Crossing Guard Program
- City of Columbus School Zone Enforcement
 - Police Liaisons, such as School Resource Officers
- No-Idling Policies



◀ Walk to School 2009
(Photo: ODOT)
• Police Officers volunteer to help with International Walk to School Day.



▲ Walking to School 2009
(Photo: Delaware, Ohio)
• School Officials help with directing traffic so kids can cross the street.

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Sources

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