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## Resource Center News: SRTS Forum Preview



Save the Date! The SRTS Resource Center is planning a Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on Thursday, June 18, 2015, at Spring Valley High School in Columbia. There will be 12 breakout sessions to choose from, along with a key note speaker and a closing ceremony. [Click here to register!](#) Each month, in our newsletter, we'll highlight a session.

One of the sessions will cover ways to include Law



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

### From our State Coordinator:

Did you know that one in every three children in the United States is overweight or obese? Being physically active is not only beneficial for your physical health, but can also have a positive effect on academic performance.

In this [recent research report by Active Living Research](#), findings include:

- Active kids are 20% more likely to earn an "A" in math or English
- Active kids increase their

Enforcement and Safety Patrols in your SRTS program. We'll have a guest speaker from Safe Kids York County discuss how we've partnered to offer safety trainings to Safety Patrols throughout York County. **Robert White** is the founder and Co-Chair of Safe Kids York County. He is a National Registered Paramedic and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Assistant Chief with Piedmont Medical Center EMS. Robert is also a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor and a member to the National Child Passenger Safety Board. Robert has been a paramedic for over 27 years. He is passionate about stopping preventable injury - the number one killer of children!

[Click here to register for the SC SRTS Forum now!](#)

## Upcoming Event: Earth Day

Earth Day is **Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and offers a great opportunity to introduce your students to the Safe Routes to School program.

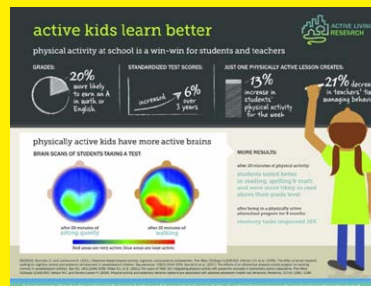
By pairing SRTS efforts with an Earth Day event you can present your students with another benefit of walking and biking - helping the environment.

[Contact your SOC](#) to plan a SRTS event around Earth Day. Get creative and put your own spin on it!

- Plan another "Walk to School Day" event that week and promote it using this [customizable flyer](#).
- Use Earth Day to launch an ["Anti-Idling"](#) campaign for parents, and encourage walking and biking as alternate methods of transportation.
- Launch a ["School Flag"](#) program indicating air quality conditions. Set a school goal to always wave a green flag, and encourage students to help achieve this goal by walking and biking to school.

standardized test scores by an average of 6% over three years

- One physically active lesson can decrease the time spent managing poor student behavior by 21%



Click here to [access the Info graphic](#) and share these report findings! [Contact your School Outreach Coordinator](#) for information on starting walking school buses, bicycle trains, walk at school initiatives, and more! SRTS is a tool to help your school implement more physical activity opportunities!

## Grant Opportunity: Rapid Response Grants

Is your community looking for a way to bolster funding toward walking and biking? Rapid Response Grants help state and local organizations take advantage of unexpected opportunities to win, increase, or preserve funding for biking and walking. These grants are for short-term campaigns that will increase or preserve investments in active transportation in communities where program choices are being made on how to spend federal, state, and local funding. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Follow this link to learn more about Rapid Response Grants:

<http://www.advocacyadvance.org/grants>

Implement classroom activities on air quality and transportation. Click here to download a lesson for [grades K-5](#) and here for a lesson for [grades 5-8](#).

## Highlight on a Partner: Walk Audit and Travel Plan Successes

Over the past four years, the Resource Center has helped to facilitate numerous Walk Audits and draft 19 SRTS Travel Plans.

Walk Audits bring community stakeholders to the school to observe the dismissal process and assess the routes to and on campus. The group identifies infrastructure and safety improvements that will help increase the safety of student walkers and bicyclists and hopefully allow for more students to walk or bicycle to school. Engineering strategies are then written in a report and prioritized by the team.

[Drafting a SRTS Action/Travel Plan](#) takes the Walk Audit process one step further by identifying recommendations and strategies to address both the non-infrastructure and infrastructure components of Safe Routes.

Schools have used these Walk Audits and Travel Plans to achieve many successes, including:

- Winning \$25,000 grants
- Establishing safety patrols
- Initiating ongoing walking programs
- Repairing broken sidewalks
- Reducing speed limits
- Creating safe walking route maps
- Obtaining crossing guards
- Moving bicycle racks

## Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids Sumter

Safe Kids Sumter is one of the many Safe Kids coalitions in South Carolina partnered with the Resource Center. Safe Kids Sumter participates in all Safety Assessments conducted in Sumter County to express the importance of child passenger safety. In addition, Safe Kids Sumter hosted a series of Bike Safety presentations at Oakland Primary in conjunction with their International Walk to School Day events.

Every year, all elementary students are invited to attend the two-day Safe Kids Sumter Kid's Fest event. The event will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30am-1:00pm at the Sumter Civic Center. Students will learn about fire safety, bike safety, pedestrian safety, and much more! The Resource Center will be leading the pedestrian safety section! For more information contact Cheryl Jackson at [safekids@tuomey.com](mailto:safekids@tuomey.com) or 803.774.8822.

Like us on 

Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on [Facebook](#)!

"[Like](#)" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!

- Adding school and pedestrian signage
- And more!

Contact your **School Outreach Coordinator** to set up a Walk Audit at your school or to learn more about the Travel/Action Plan process! Click [here](#) to view some examples of Infrastructure successes here in South Carolina!



*The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is a program of the South Carolina DOT*

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