



In this issue

Resource Center News: SRTS Action Plan Assistance Application

Partner Highlight: Walk Audit and Travel Plan Successes

Upcoming Event: Earth Day

Learning Opportunity: SC Safe Routes to School Forum
From our State Coordinator

Scholarship Opportunity: Environmental Education Grant
Like us on Facebook!

Resource Center News: SRTS Action Plan Assistance Application

The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is calling for self-nominations from schools requesting planning assistance for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan. Only a handful of schools will be selected from across the state to receive this free resource. Your Action Plan will help to establish a long and short-term comprehensive SRTS Plan for the school and surrounding community. Your school will be chosen based upon its interest, its current work with SRTS and the current condition of its surroundings.

The Action Plan will include recommendations, strategies and activities and will outline the 5 Es of SRTS (Engineering, Evaluation, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement).



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

While the spring semester is full of school activities and academic performance testing, I encourage all of our partner schools to continue with your Safe Routes to School efforts. We have a number of opportunities for you to take advantage of:

- SC Walk to School Day:
If you missed the event on

Click here to complete the [Action Plan application](#). Applications are due by **April 11th**.

For information regarding the Action Plan process, roles and responsibilities, please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#). You may also view other schools' [SRTS Travel Plans](#) to get an idea of what the finished product looks like.

Partner Highlight: Walk Audit and Travel Plan Successes

Over the past five years, the Resource Center has helped to facilitate almost 100 Walk Audits and draft 19 SRTS Travel Plans.

Walk Audits bring various community stakeholders together to discuss barriers to safe routes, traffic concerns, and general safety related issues to walking and bicycling to school. The group observes the school's dismissal process and assess the walkability and biking conditions of the school campus. The group also helps to identify infrastructure improvements and offer safety recommendations 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 plan and prioritized by the team.

[Drafting a SRTS Action Plan](#) takes the Walk Audit process one step further by identifying recommendations and strategies to address the other 4 Es of SRTS: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation.

March 9th, we're accepting [event registrations](#)

throughout the entire month of March! Plan your event now! **Contact your School Outreach Coordinator** to help plan your event!

- **SRTS Action Plan:** We have had so many successes with schools that have conducted Safety Assessments and created Travel Plans that we've decided to offer another round of FREE technical assistance with our [2016 Action Plan application](#). Make sure you submit your application by **April 11th**.

Grant Opportunity: Environmental Education Grant

Do you have an environmental program that needs funding? The [Environmental Education Local Grants Program](#) has a new grant application to support locally-focused environmental education projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues, provides the skills that

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
- Help reduce speed limits at or around schools
- Creating safe walking route maps
- Obtaining crossing guards
- Moving bicycle racks to safer and more secure locations on campus.
- 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!

Upcoming Event: Earth Day



Earth Day is coming up on **Wednesday, April 22nd** and offers another great opportunity to introduce your students to the Safe Routes to School program.

participants in its funded projects need to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment. The EPA expects to award three grants from each of the EPA's 10 Regional Offices, for a total of approximately 30 grants nationwide. The award amount for each of these grants will be approximately, but no more than, \$91,000 in federal funds.

Applicants must demonstrate how they will provide non-federal matching funds of at least 25% of the total cost of the project.

If you are interested in learning more, click [here](#) for the full solicitation.

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Keep up with the Resource Center this school year by liking us on **Facebook!**

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 a "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
- Use Earth Day to 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
- Implement classroom activities on air quality and transportation. Download a lesson for grades [K-5](#) or grades [5-8](#).

Learning Opportunity: SC Safe Routes to School Forum June 9th!

Mark your calendars! SC SRTS program and its Resource Center will be holding a statewide forum, tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, June 9, 2016**, in the Columbia area. Participants will spend the day learning how to support and improve their SRTS program. The day-long, free event will include topics such as pedestrian and bicycle safety training, funding resources, and

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

starting new or improving mature SRTS programs. This will be an excellent opportunity to share ideas with, and learn from, school champions, school district administrators, SCDOT officials, bicycle and pedestrian and Safe Routes experts, and public safety personnel. Come and network with other schools and groups that are all committed to creating safe, healthy environments for students!



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