



# SOUTH CAROLINA Resource Center Newsletter



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## In this issue

Learning Opportunity: SC Safe Routes to School Forum  
Resource Center News: SRTS Action Plan Assistance Application

Upcoming Event: National Bike to School Day  
Partner Highlight: SC Walk to School Success Stories  
Like us on Facebook!

From our State Coordinator  
Spotlight on a Friend: American Diabetes Association  
Grant Opportunity: McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation Academic Enrichment Grant



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

[Register now!](#) The SRTS Resource Center will be holding the 2nd Annual Statewide Safe Routes to School Forum on June 9, 2016, in Columbia. Participants will spend the day learning how to support and improve their SRTS program. The day-long event will include topics such as pedestrian and bicycle safety training, funding resources, and starting new and improving mature SRTS programs. This is an excellent opportunity to share ideas with and learn from school champions, school district administrators, SCDOT officials, bicycle and



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

**Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, offers another great opportunity to introduce your students to Safe Routes to School.

By pairing SRTS efforts with an Earth Day event, you can present your students with another opportunity to help improve the environment **by walking and biking to school!** We encourage you to incorporate walking and biking activities into your Earth Day celebration - get

pedestrian and Safe Routes experts, and public safety personnel. Join us to learn and network with other schools and groups that are all committed to creating safe and healthy environments for students!

## Resource Center News: SRTS Action Plan Assistance Application

The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is calling for 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).

Click [here](#) to complete the application. Applications are due **today!**

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.

## Upcoming Event: National Bike to School Day

**National Bike to School Day** is set for **Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**! To register your school's event and find out who's riding, click [here](#).

creative and put your own spin on it! Here are some ideas to spark your own creativity:

- Plan another "Walk to School Day" during Earth Week, highlighting walking and biking as environmentally-friendly transportation methods. Customize our [Earth Walk Flyer](#) to start promoting your school's walk!
- Use Earth Day to launch an "[Anti-Idling](#)" campaign for parents, and encourage walking and biking as alternate methods of transportation that can reduce emissions around your school zones.
- Implement classroom activities on air quality and transportation choices. Students can even track their carbon footprint! Click [here](#) for environmentally-friendly lesson plans and classroom ideas.

Spotlight on a  
Friend: American  
Diabetes  
Association - Tour  
De Cure

The National Center for Safe Routes to School and Schwinn's **Helmets on Heads** program will be giving away 10 Schwinn Bicycles and 20 Schwinn helmets to 10 schools across the nation. Two drawings each week will take place starting on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) to learn more information about the giveaway and to register your event!

To get ready for National Bike to School Day, review some **Bicycle Safety Tips** with your [students](#) and send home suggestions for [parents](#), too. Is it too far or unsafe for bicycle riding to school? Contact local law enforcement to host a bicycle safety presentation for students during a safety assembly. **Bicycle rodeos** are another great activity to teach students bike safety skills. Check out some more ways to get [local law enforcement](#) involved with your Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Please contact your local [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning your National Bike to School Day activities!

## Partner Highlight: SC Walk to School Success Stories

Children at 176 schools across South Carolina participated in SC Walk to School Day (WTSD) events! [Click here](#) to browse our photo album of event photos and read below for just a few event highlights from around the state. Would you like your school event featured in future newsletters? Let us know by [emailing](#) us today!

**Hyatt Park Elementary**, in Columbia invited all students and families to walk to school on SC Walk to School Day. Everyone who participated met at the intersection of Lorick Avenue and Glendon Road where they were greeted by faculty members of Hyatt Park Elementary. The event was a success with 188 walkers and 30 adults participating!

**Independence Elementary**, in Rock Hill celebrated Walk at School Day with their entire student body. Throughout the day each grade level walked the bus loop for 30-40 minutes. Before walking, all students watched and discussed a seven minute

The American Diabetes Association and Columbia's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee have teamed up with the SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center to offer an interactive skills clinic on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Robert Mills House from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There will be stations to get bikes checked, helmet fittings, as well as stations for riders to work on their bicycling skills. Starting at 11:30 a.m., join the Mayor of Columbia for a [bicycle ride](#) around historic Columbia. Register [here](#) for the event! Riders may also choose to participate in the optional fund-raising opportunity for the American Diabetes Association. Prizes and awards will be available to those that participate. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

## Grant Opportunity: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Academic Enrichment Grant

Are you implementing walking or biking strategies that are improving the overall learning of your students? If you are working to develop in-class and extra-curricular programs that improve student learning, the **McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Academic Enrichment Grant** may be a good fit for you and your school. The Foundation considers proposals that foster understanding, deepen

video on pedestrian safety.

**Ocean Drive Elementary**, in North Myrtle Beach, kicked off a wonderful month of Walk to School Day events on March 2nd. The dedication of parents, teachers, and students was evident as they walked to school in the rain. Umbrellas were high, spirits were higher, and no one let the clouds in the sky stop the fun! We love to see this kind of school dedication to health, safety, and fitness in South Carolina!

Like us on 

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"**Like**" us to stay updated on interesting news articles, upcoming events and different funding and learning opportunities!

students' knowledge, and provide opportunities to expand awareness of the world around them. The deadline for submitting is April 15, 2016. If you are interested, click [here](#) to learn more.



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