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SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



Volume 6, Issue 9, September 2016

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Upcoming Event: International Walk to School Day is next month!

It is not too late to plan for International Walk to School Day (iWalk) on **October 5th** or any time in October! So far, more than [90 South Carolina schools](#) are planning to celebrate iWalk! Click [here](#) to register your event. There are many ways for your school to participate. Plan your events to encourage students to:

- **Walk TO School** from their home
- **Walk TO School** from a meeting location such as a park, grocery store, or church parking lot
- **Walk AT School** by having a school-wide walk around the campus in the morning, designated class time for grade-level walks throughout the day, or a group walk after



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator:

September is full of events and celebrations to incorporate into your Safe Routes to School program!

- **September is [National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month](#).**

Organize a Health and Safety Fair for your students and families! Line up guest speakers and community organizations to talk about nutrition,

lunch

- **Walk FROM School** to their homes, a designated pick-up location or to an after school care provider
- **Walk After School** and invite students and parents to walk that afternoon/evening or plan an event with your after school program

Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance with planning a safe and fun event to fit your school's needs.

*Incentives will be provided to [Partner Schools](#) with registered events on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive incentives before your event, please register on or before September 23rd. The Resource Center will have a limited supply, and based on the number of past events, we may run out. [Register today!](#)

Resource Center News: Student Travel Tally Month

September is **Student Travel Tally Month** for the Resource Center. The Student Travel Tally is a quick, in-class survey that provides valuable information on student travel patterns. Completing student tallies will also help your school become a **Silver Level** partner with the Resource Center! Collecting tallies on an annual basis is a great way to track the impact of your SRTS program.

Download the Student Travel Tally form [here](#) and provide one form to each homeroom teacher during the same week in September. On two days during that week, each teacher will ask their students how they arrived to school. Once the forms are completed, contact your local **School Outreach Coordinator (SOC)**, and we'll help get your forms to the National Center for Safe Routes to School for processing. A tip sheet for completing the tallies can be found [here](#). Your school will then receive a complete report of your students' travel patterns!

Another great way to evaluate your Safe Routes to

physical activity, and safety.

- **September 17th** is [Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play](#). This day is meant to encourage kids to go outside and PLAY! Organize a community 5k run or a bicycle rodeo at your school!
- **September 22nd** is [World Car Free Day](#). Celebrate by planning a Walk to School Day or Bike to School Day that following week. Consider launching a Walking School Bus at your school in honor of Car Free Day!

Contact your local [SOC](#) for assistance with planning any of these events. Show your students that being physically active is FUN by getting creative and making these events specific for your school!

Grant Opportunity: Champions of the Environment Grant

Win a grant award and be featured in a commercial for doing your part in improving the environment!

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, has created a "Champions of the Environment" award program to recognize outstanding environmental

School program is to complete [Parent Surveys](#). Put this survey in your students' daily folders or hand it out at the first PTA meeting! The parent survey can also be completed online. Contact your local [SOC](#) for more information.

Spotlight on a Friend: Breathe Better Program

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Breathe Better (B²) Program is an anti-idling, clean air initiative focused on reducing vehicle emissions on school campuses. Schools adopt an anti-idling policy, post anti-idling signage (provided free of charge), and participate in other air quality related activities - like organizing a walk-to-school day! By participating in B², schools protect their students' young lungs and help them learn more about air quality. To learn more about the program or to enroll for the current school year, visit www.scdhec.gov/b2.

Partner Highlight: Spotlight on our Partner's Events

Upstate: Oakland Elementary, in Spartanburg County will celebrate International Walk TO School Day for an entire week with the theme, "Under *Fit*-struction". Each day of the week will have its own unique title, such as Nail It with Fitness Friday, where students will nail down fitness by blasting calories on the school's morning news show and throughout the day. Wednesday, the school will have a Walk AT School Day that will begin with a guest speaker followed by a walk around the school campus by students of all grades and their families.

Midlands: Midway Elementary in Lexington County will include their entire student body during Walk AT School Day. After the morning's announcements, students will leave from the back of the school to walk the school's campus for their

projects. **Safe Routes to School** is listed as a "[recommended project idea](#)" for Preventing or Reducing Pollution in the Air! Projects must make a difference within the community and create a lasting difference. [Click here](#) to review the application!

Apply for a "Champions of the Environment" grant today. Applicants may be South Carolina's Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, students, or environmental educators. Applications are due October 17th. Awards will be made in November. The Champions of the Environment program is supported by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, International Paper and South Carolina Electric and Gas. [Request](#) a Walking School Bus Information Session now to get started! For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Opportunity: Walk to School Day Photo Contest

[International Walk to School Day](#) is less than one month away, so get your cameras ready! The Resource Center will host a Photo Contest on our [Facebook](#) page this fall and we'll be looking for pictures that showcase your exciting event!

Pictures must be sent to your

event. In addition, the school has invited their town Mayor Steve MacDougall to participate with their students. Midway Elementary has been a partner with the Resource Center for the past 3 years and is working towards Silver level. This event will kick off their SRTS program for the new school year!

Lowcountry: Flowertown Elementary, in Summerville, is a school committed to getting students walking! Every student will walk on October 5th for a Walk AT School day. Before students go to lunch, and after they have eaten, they will walk the bus loop. Not only will students be learning tips for walking safely, but they will learn the health benefits of walking. At Flowertown Elementary, the administration and staff prioritize every student's education on how and why to walk.

[School Outreach Coordinator](#) by **Monday, October 31st**. [Click here](#) to see last year's photo contest submissions!

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!



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