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SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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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 (also known as "Travel Plans") 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



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 March 8th, we're accepting **event registrations** throughout the **entire month of March!** Plan

and will outline the 5 Es of SRTS (Engineering, Evaluation, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement).

Click here to complete the [Action Plan application](#). Applications are due by **April 10th**.

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

Upcoming Event: Earth Day

Earth Day is coming up on Saturday, April 22nd and offers another great opportunity to introduce your students to the Safe Routes to School program and promote earth-friendly modes of transportation like walking and bicycling.

[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](#).

your event now!

- **SRTS Action Plan:** We've 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 [2017 Action Plan application](#). Make sure you submit your application by April 10th.
- **Bike to School Day:** Plan a bike to school event or a bike safety event in the month of May in honor of National Bike Month! [Contact your School Outreach Coordinator](#) to help plan your event!

Learning Opportunity: Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit May 4-5, 2017.

[Register now!](#) The Mayor's Bike & Walk Summit will be held on May 4th and 5th at the IT-oLogy building in downtown Columbia. The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is collaborating with the City of Columbia, Palmetto Cycling Coalition, Palmetto Conservation Foundation, and the SC American Diabetes Association to present this two-day learning event focusing on pedestrian and bicycle-friendly strategies. The Summit will include topics such as Mayor's Roundtable, funding resources, pop-up infrastructure, and Safe Routes to School. Click [here](#) to see the tentative agenda! Join us to learn and network with others that

Partner Highlight: Walk Audit and Travel Plan Successes

Over the past five years, the Resource Center has helped to facilitate numerous Walk Audits and draft 22 SRTS Action Plans.

Walk Audits bring community stakeholders to the school to observe the dismissal process and assess the walkability and biking conditions of the school 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 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 engineering concerns along with the other 4 Es of SRTS: Education, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation.

Schools have used 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, adding school and pedestrian signage, and much 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!

are committed to creating safe and healthy environments for students and their communities! Check out the website for more information:

[http://scmayorsbikewalksummit.org/!](http://scmayorsbikewalksummit.org/)

Grant Opportunity: Braitmayer Foundation

Is your school looking for new and innovative ways to teach students how to walk and bike safely? Do you have an idea on how to promote students walking and biking but need help getting started? Click [here](#) to check out the Braitmayer Foundation Education Grants. The Braitmayer Foundation provides grants to help deliver innovative practices in K-12 schools in the U.S. Grants can be used for curricular and school reform initiatives, as well as professional development and teacher retention programs. Letters of Inquiry are due by March 15th.

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"[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