



SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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Resource Center News: SC Walk to School Day Registration

South Carolina Walk to School Day registration is now open! The official event is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 6th**, but schools will be celebrating throughout March. There are many ways to participate. Schools can plan various walk-and-roll *to* school, park-and-walk, or walk-and-roll *from* school events. No matter the activity, the goal is to emphasize how walking and biking are healthy and fun activities.

[Click here to register](#) now. **Incentive items for the events will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.** Please contact your **[School Outreach Coordinator](#)** with any questions or to receive assistance with planning your school's SC Walk to School Day!

From our State Coordinator

South Carolina Walk to School Day

is just two months away, and we've already seen an increase in participation with our Walk to School Day events. One contributing factor to their popularity is that schools are making this event fun. These events are also well coordinated and include large numbers of students, families and school staff. High participation levels really help to build momentum and with sustainability of one's SRTS program.

Walking School Buses also seek to build momentum and enhance pedestrian safety by

Upcoming Events: Monthly Themed Walking Events and Walk Across America Challenge

A great way to get your school more involved this year and to get ready for SC Walk to School Day is to participate in monthly themed walks! Check out the [monthly event themes](#) for 2013 on our website and encourage monthly walk-and-roll to school days, school walks during the day, or monthly after school walking groups. Get creative and allow students to dress up or receive themed incentives for completing the events each month!

Another encouragement activity your school may choose to implement is the **Walk Across America** challenge. Track students' steps each week and choose a goal to complete - such as walking the 3,300 miles coast to coast during one semester, walking across South Carolina, or following the Palmetto Trail. Create a challenge between classrooms and report the distance covered by [converting steps into miles](#). Check out the [Walk Across America Guide](#) and contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) with any questions!

Taking part in monthly themed walks and **Walk Across America** can help schools reach [Gold-level](#) partnership with the SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center. For more information on elevating your school's partner level, see the "Spotlight" item below.

Spotlight on a Partner: How to Become a Silver, Gold and Platinum Partner!

South Carolina Safe Routes to School Partners experienced a great 2012! Today, 178 schools are Bronze-level partners, 48 schools are Silver-level, and three schools in SC have achieved Gold-level status! To see what level your school is click [here](#).

How can a school move up from one partner level to the next? Click on each level below to view

bringing groups of children together to walk at the same time. A Walking School Bus is an adult-chaperoned group of students that walks to and/or from school.

Watch these Walking School Bus [Training Modules](#) for more information on how to prepare, build momentum and launch a walking school bus program, including identifying community partners and securing program funding.

Grant Opportunity: Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

[Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation](#) is donating more than \$5 million to public schools this school year. More than 1,000 schools will be awarded \$2,000 to \$5,000 to help support their school communities.

Preference will be given to funding requests that seek permanent impacts, such as facility enhancement and landscaping projects. Projects that could improve your school connectivity and safety for walkers and bikers might be good submittals - such as trail development, pedestrian crosswalks or signage, or bike racks. Contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) to schedule a Walkability Assessment to help spur some ideas. Projects that encourage parent involvement will also

examples of how your school can increase their involvement and help build a sustainable program.

[Bronze -> Silver](#)

[Silver -> Gold](#)

[Gold -> Platinum](#)

Spotlight on a Friend: Anderson School District 4 Leads on Wellness

School leaders in the Anderson School District 4 love wellness initiatives. In 2011, the District adopted a policy that includes healthy guidelines for food and beverages served prior to, during, and after the school day. The policy also promotes fund raisers and incorporates increased physical activity into classroom instruction. Under the direction of Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Joanne Avery, the District is working hard to educate and support healthy lifestyle choices for students, parents, and employees. During this school year, the District is focusing on three activities: Townville Elementary School's 5K Turkey Trot, student and staff wellness fairs, and South Carolina Safe Routes to School Day. Community groups including the Pendleton Pride in Motion and students in the 'Community Health Promotion' course at Clemson University will be assisting with SC Safe Routes to School Day on March 6th.

In addition, the Administrative Rule that guides implementation of the District's policy specifically mentions Safe Routes to School:

Anderson School District Four is committed to working to provide its students with a safe and easier way to walk and bike to school. When appropriate, the district will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts. The school district will explore the availability of federal "safe routes to school" funds, administered by the state department of transportation, to finance such improvements.

be favored - so consider a **[Walking School Bus](#)** program! Applications are due February 15th. Click **[here](#)** for more information.

We're Expanding: New Enforcement Resources!

Partnering with local and state law enforcement can be a powerful tool for successful Safe Routes to School programming. Law enforcement professionals can help deter speeding in school zones and raise awareness with drivers about student pedestrians. We've put together a new section on our website with suggestions and resources to help schools partner with law enforcement.

The new Enforcement Resources can be found **[here](#)**, and include information on:

Guidance: Provides examples of how schools and local law enforcement agencies around the country are coordinating to help make it safer for walking and bicycling students.

On Going Activities: Contains ideas for Safe Driving Pledges, as well as a reminder that the SC Department of Highway Safety can send officers to schools to talk to students about safety.

Parent and Community

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!

Education: Offers information
on community watch
programs, personal security,
and South Carolina's
pedestrian laws.

Check it out and let us know if
you have ideas for other
enforcement resources or
examples of how enforcement
strategies have worked in your
community.



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