

SOUTH CAROLINA

Resource Center Newsletter



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Walk Audit and Travel Plan Successes

Over the past 3 years, the Resource Center has helped to facilitate numerous Walk Audits and has drafted 16 SRTS Travel Plans.

Walk Audits bring community stakeholders to the school to observe the dismissal process and assess the walkability and bikeability 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 the other 4 Es of SRTS: Education, Encouragement,



Rodney Oldham, CHES, CPT

From our State Coordinator

I would like to thank the staff at the SC SRTS Resource Center and all of the schools that have and will participate in the Third Annual SC Walk to School Day. In spite of the various weather conditions statewide and some schools having to reschedule their events for later in March, SC Walk to School Day was still successful! Special thanks goes out to all of the principals, school administrators, and school champions that helped to make this a special day throughout South Carolina.

Enforcement and Evaluation.

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
- Reducing speed limits
- Creating safe walking route maps
- Obtaining crossing guards
- Moving bicycle racks
- 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! These efforts may even better prepare you for the [SCDOT Infrastructure Grant](#)! Click [here](#) to view some examples of Infrastructure successes here in South Carolina!

S.C. Safe Routes to School Funding

The SCDOT Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is currently accepting applications for SRTS infrastructure projects. The SCDOT SRTS Program has designed a competitive application to assess the need for Safe Routes to School programs at schools in South Carolina. The need is determined through evaluation of current student travel patterns, potential participation, physical and perceived barriers to SRTS, traffic issues, crash data, an exhibited existing interest in SRTS, and understanding of the comprehensive nature of SRTS.

Any school with grades K-8, a school district, a municipality, or any other government entity may apply, but selected schools must be a partner of the SRTS Resource Center in order to

While the spring semester is full of school activities and academic performance testing, I encourage all of our partner schools to also 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 5th, we're accepting [event registrations](#) throughout **March!** Plan 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 **2013 Action Plan application.** Make sure you submit your application by **March 14th.**
- **[National Bike to School Day:](#)** **Registration is now open. Go to www.walkbiketoschool.org.** The official date is May 7th. 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!

be considered for funding. Government agencies or organizations may apply on behalf of a school. An application for funding must represent only one (1) eligible school, and only one application per school per funding cycle is eligible. Eligible schools must have been in operation for at least two years prior to the application deadline. Previous SRTS infrastructure awardees and schools built within the last two years are ineligible.

SCDOT will administer and oversee the infrastructure project, and the SC SRTS Resource Center will continue to provide non-infrastructure services and programs.

Applications for SC Safe Routes to School funding are now available. The deadline for applications is May 16, 2014, and no applications will be accepted after that date.

To obtain an application, please go to <http://www.scdot.org/getting/saferoutes.aspx>. Click on Funding/Application tab. Contact the state SRTS Coordinator, Rodney Oldham, at oldhamr@scdot.org should you have any questions.

Earth Day

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

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 another "Walk to School Day" event that week and promote it using this

Resource Center News: SRTS Action Plan Assistance Application

The SC Safe Routes to School Resource Center is calling for self-nominations from schools requesting professional 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 [Action Plan nomination](#). Nominations are due by **March 14th**.

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 about the finished product.

[customizable flyer](#)

- Launch an "[Anti-Idling](#)" campaign for parents, and encourage walking and biking as alternate methods of transportation
- 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. Click here to download a [lesson for grades K-5](#) and here for a [lesson for grades 5-8](#).

Grant Opportunity: ING Run for Something Better

Sixty elementary and middle schools will receive \$3,500 to start or expand a running program through ING Run for Something Better. The program, which is in partnership with the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), seeks to increase physical activity in students and help fight childhood obesity.

Running is one of the simplest, most effective, and enjoyable forms of physical activity. This grant can help students build and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

For more information, visit [NASPE's ING Grant Page](#). The **application deadline is May 15, 2014**.

Not a Silver Level Partner Yet?

Due to the success of so many schools participating in Walk to School Day events in South Carolina each year, the Resource Center will only be able to provide unique incentives such as the very popular glow in the dark

Spotlight on a Friend: Safe Kids Sumter

Safe Kids Sumter is one of the many Safe Kids coalitions in South Carolina partnered with the Resource Center. Safe Kids Sumter recently participated in a Safety Assessment at Wilder Elementary. Their coordinator was able to express the importance of proper child restraints and the use of safety belts to faculty members during the Safety Walk Audit. The discussion led to community members at the table exploring ideas of how to incorporate all transportation modes by educating and aiding parents in purchasing proper restraints. Safe Kids Sumter offers a variety of services such as child passenger safety seat checks, child passenger safety trainings, and bicycle rodeos which can be coordinated at your school.

Every year, Safe Kids Sumter host Kid's Fest and all elementary students are invited to attend this two day event. This year it will be held on April 15th-16th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sumter Civic Center. Students will learn about fire safety, bike safety, pedestrian safety, and much more! The Resource Center will be leading the pedestrian safety section. For more information contact Cheryl Jackson at safekids@tuomey.com or 803.774.8822.

silicone bracelets to [Silver and Gold Level Partners](#). As of Fall 2013, Bronze Level schools will no longer receive these types of incentives, but they will receive other incentives for participating in Walk and Bike to School Day events.

Click [here](#) to see the requirements to become at least a Silver Level Partner! There is still plenty of time to achieve Silver status before South Carolina Walk to School Day on March 5th, 2014. Please contact your [School Outreach Coordinator](#) for assistance.

If you would like to nominate a community organization for our "Outstanding Friend" designation, please complete our [online nomination form](#). We're accepting nominations on a rolling basis and will announce the next round of "Outstanding Community Friends" in June 2014!

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

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