



Michigan Department of Transportation

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program

Program Background

- The SRTS program was enacted with passage of the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in August of 2005.
- Michigan's SRTS allocation averages \$3 million per year for 5 years.
- Over 4,000 Michigan schools, serving grades K-8, are eligible for SRTS projects.
- There are over 400 Michigan schools registered to conduct SRTS programs as of August, 2009.
- The SRTS program is administered by the Office of Economic Development (OED) of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Program Purposes

- To enable and encourage all children to walk and bike to school.
- To make bicycling and walking to school safer and more appealing alternative modes of transportation.
- To develop projects and encourage activities that will improve student health and safety while reducing traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

Program Requirements

- In Michigan, a school-based planning process must be completed as a prerequisite for funding.
- Infrastructure projects must be within a two mile radius of the school.
- Infrastructure projects must be implemented by a city, village or county road commission.
- Non-infrastructure projects may be implemented by schools, local agencies or nonprofit organizations.

How to Begin Safe Routes To School Program

- Visit Michigan's SRTS website www.saferoutesmichigan.org for information.
- Attend a SRTS training session and register your school.
- Form and engage a stakeholder SRTS handbook planning process team for your school.
- Conduct student and parent surveys to determine behavior and attitudes involved.
- Conduct a walking audit of routes students use for travel to/from your school.
- Analyze information and develop SRTS action plan for your school.

Activities Eligible for Grant Funding

SRTS funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. SRTS grant funds can support both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects. The statute identifies project types for each category as follows:

Infrastructure Projects

Sidewalks	On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
Traffic calming and speed reduction	Off-street pedestrian facilities
Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements	Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools

Noninfrastructure Projects

Activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school	Traffic enforcement operations in the vicinity of schools
Public awareness campaigns, community outreach	Student training sessions (bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and environment)
Traffic education	Funding for training volunteers and managers of safe routes to schools programs

For more information, contact Bryan Armstrong, AICP, Michigan's SRTS Program Coordinator, at (517) 335-2636.