



Newsletter No. 15, February 2008

Hello Safe Routes to School coordinators and friends! Here is what's new with Michigan's Safe Routes to School program this month:

Michigan Announces Safe Routes to School Award Recipients!

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced the first round of SRTS funding awards on Monday, January 28, 2008. Nine elementary and middle schools will receive more than \$1.6 million in federal "Safe Routes to School" funding for infrastructure improvements and education, encouragement, and enforcement programs that encourage and make it safer for students to travel to and from school by foot or bicycle. Congratulations to: Winans Elementary School, Lansing; Christa McAuliffe Middle School, Bay City; Clear Lake Elementary School, Oxford; George Long Elementary School, Grass Lake; Lincoln Elementary School, Cadillac; Northeast Elementary School, Jackson; Frost/Cascades Elementary Schools, Jackson; Jackson Arts and Technology Academy, Jackson; and Springport Elementary and Middle Schools, Springport!

To access the press release, please visit our website at www.saferoutesmichigan.org under the "Latest News" section.

Fall 2007 School Progress Questionnaire

In October, 2007, a school progress survey was distributed to all schools that were registered as having begun a SR2S initiative. The SR2S school questionnaire served multiple purposes. It 1) identified where schools were in the SR2S planning process; 2) identified additional needed technical assistance; 3) allowed for collection of success stories; and 4) provided information on the challenges schools are facing.

A link to the online questionnaire was sent to 184 coordinators representing 235 schools. Sixty-eight coordinators completed the questionnaire representing 92 schools for a 37% response rate.

The survey findings include:

- 76% of respondents said their SR2S program is active this year.
- 58% of respondents have begun or finished their SR2S action plan.
- 19% of respondents requested assistance with completing the Handbook process and 16% requested assistance with the application.
- 45% of respondents reported increased parent/community support and awareness as a result of their efforts.
- 29% of respondents described generating or maintaining parent and community support as a challenge, and 17% reported lack of time/personnel to be a challenge.

If you would like more information on the findings from the questionnaire, please contact our office at (800) 434-8642.

Evaluation Update

The Michigan State University (MSU) research team lead by Dr. Christine Vogt is currently working with 55 schools in Michigan that have either sent in completed parent and student surveys or have requested surveys. MSU continues to offer printing of surveys, keying of survey data, and analysis of data.

- The Michigan evaluation is comprised of four elements: principal consent (now found on the SRTS registration form), classroom observation tally (now includes the teacher consent), student questionnaire, and parent questionnaire. **All are required.**
- 17 schools have received their survey results as of the beginning of February, with many more schools in the queue for keying and reporting.

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