



## Newsletter No. 21, February 2009

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

### **Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Action Plans Project**

The Michigan Fitness Foundation has launched an action planning mini-grant program to help schools complete SR2S planning activities. Planning for safer routes to school is a multi-step process that brings local participants with necessary skills and resources together. Completed plans are the roadmap to increasing walking and bicycling to school on safe routes. The Action Plans mini-grant program is supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). As part of its social mission, BCBSM is committed to building healthy communities and supporting programs aimed at combating childhood obesity. To this end, BCBSM has awarded funding to The Michigan Fitness Foundation's Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Action Plans Project. A total of thirty Michigan elementary and middle schools will receive mini-grants to facilitate the completion of SR2S action plans and the implementation of one low-cost item from their plan. For more information about this project, please visit our website at <http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/bcbsmi.htm>.

### **SR2S Annual Meeting Update**

Michigan's Safe Routes to School Annual Meeting was held on Monday, January 26, 2009 in Lansing. There were 139 people in attendance with 37 organizations represented! The agenda covered topics including youth engagement and youth as essential partners, planning, pedestrian safety education, as well as updates from our network partners. The Annual Meeting presentations are available in PDF format at <http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/annualmeeting.htm>, along with a link to the Boulder, CO, video that was shared at the Annual Meeting.

### **Online Surveys**

Beginning February 1, 2009, we are requiring that all schools complete the SR2S student surveys online. A link to the online survey is available on the SR2S website at <http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org/surveys.htm>. Online completion will allow schools to receive their results much faster. We are also encouraging completion of parent surveys online when possible. Questions regarding the online surveys or the survey process in general should be directed to Dr. Christine Vogt at [vogtc@msu.edu](mailto:vogtc@msu.edu).

### **Pedestrian Safety Training**

Two interactive Pedestrian Safety Trainings are scheduled—Thursday, February 12, in Detroit and Wednesday, February 18, in Benton Harbor, both from 10 am to 2 pm. Learn how to implement knowledge and skill-based pedestrian safety activities through real-world examples and hands-on training. For more information or to register, contact Rosie Stern at [rstern@michiganfitness.org](mailto:rstern@michiganfitness.org), or by phone at (517) 908-3828.

Thanks, and please remember to call our office if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions!

Best wishes,  
Andrea