

# Safe Routes to School for Carson City School District

*solutions for health, safety and transportation*



Carson City School District will be encouraging and enabling students to walk and bike to school through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program during the 2008-2009 school year. Four grants from the Nevada Department of Transportation (of Federal Highways Administration funds) support this effort and complement ongoing efforts at schools. One grant funds a part-time SRTS Coordinator position, which has been provided by Sierra Nevada Journeys in a partnership with the district, while three grants address specific needs at Al Seeliger, Fremont, and Bordewich Bray elementary schools.

The SRTS program is most successful when many individuals and organizations participate, including principals, PE teachers and specialists, other teachers and school staff, parents and parent teacher organizations, students, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, public works, parks and recreation, and others. So whoever you are, we invite you to join projects at individual schools, or the district-wide efforts.

Each of the four major elements of the SRTS program is introduced below, followed by a chart showing some of the component actions for each school. The chart was compiled at the beginning of the program, so additional marks can be expected as we discover activities and schools implement new projects. It also serves as an idea bank for future grant applications.

For more information, contact SRTS Coordinator Dan Allison, [srts.carson@gmail.com](mailto:srts.carson@gmail.com) or 775-997-4937. You can also check the National Center for Safe Routes to School at <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/> and the local site at <http://srts.raincloudpub.com/>.

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## **Education**

Education activities target parents, neighbors and other drivers in the community to remind them to yield to pedestrians, to drive safely and to take other actions to make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Parents serve as role models for their children and play an important part in teaching them pedestrian and bicycle safety. Education activities also teach students how to walk and bicycle safely and the benefits of doing so.

## **Encouragement**

Encouragement strategies generate excitement about walking and bicycling safely to school. Children, parents, teachers, school administrators and others can all be involved in special events like International Walk to School Day and ongoing activities like walking school buses. Encouragement strategies can often be started relatively easily with little cost and a focus on fun.

## **Enforcement**

Enforcement activities can help to change unsafe behaviors of drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. They can increase driver awareness of laws, and they also can improve driver behavior by reducing speeds and increasing yielding to pedestrians. In addition, enforcement activities teach pedestrians and bicyclists to walk and bicycle safely and to pay attention to their environment. Enforcement doesn't just involve law enforcement. Many different community members take part in making sure everyone follows the rules, including students,

