# A Closer Look at Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners





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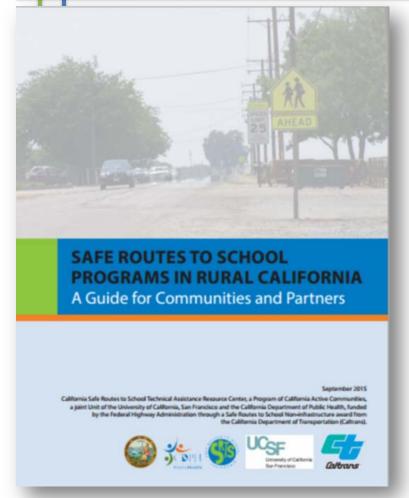
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- Q & A period will be at the end
  - Questions are encouraged! Enter questions into the chat feature any time.



A Closer Look at Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners

Located on **CAsaferoutestoschool.org** website:

www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org/saferoutes-to-school-programs-in-ruralcalifornia-a-guide-for-communities-andpartners/

### **Objectives**

By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of the Prioritization Tool in the Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural California: A Guide for Communities and Partners resource
- Learn from a local examples about approaches to implementing SRTS in rural communities

### **Today's Speakers**

- Justine Hearn, California Department of Public Health,
   Active Transportation Safety Program
- Jenny Weiss, Natural Resources Services Division, Redwood Community Action Agency
- Stephanie Nathan, Prevention, Policy and Planning unit at the Merced County Department of Public Health

#### Introduction



- Created to address the unique needs of rural communities in developing SRTS programs
- Highlights from rural communities throughout document that illustrate successes
- SRTS Programs in Rural California Overview; Strategies for Successful SRTS Programs in Rural California; Tools for Improving Infrastructure Around Rural Schools



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

## Programs in Rural California





Jenny Weiss, Senior Planner, Natural Resources Services, RCAA

### Highlights



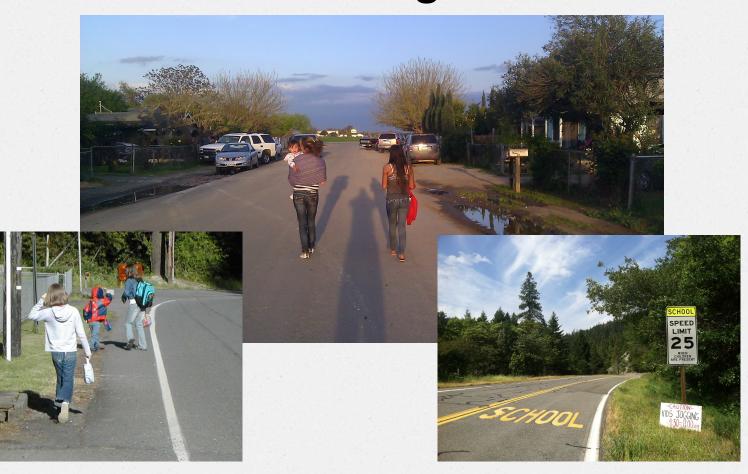
#### **Rural Prioritization Tool**

- Metrics Tool
- School SR2S inventory survey
- Spatial Component

#### **Remote Drop-Off**

- Logistics
- Including school bus riders
- Sustainability

#### Rural Communities Have Unique Challenges



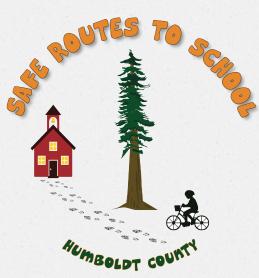


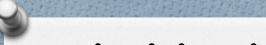
A means of determining which schools have the highest need and capacity to support SR2S programs.



Formation of the Humboldt Countywide Safe Routes to School Task Force









#### Prioritization based on:

#### **SR2S Prioritization Tool**

Data Source	Criteria Description	iteria Description Measured by					
School Readi	ness Criteria						
School Inventory Calls	School administration support	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5			
School Inventory Calls	SR2S activities/discussions/interest	Presence/Absence	Ongoing = 10 Present = 5 Absent = 0	10			
School Inventory Calls	SR2S champion present at the school	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5			
School Inventory Calls	Active school/parent support organization (e.g. PTO/PTA, Booster Club, school site council)	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5			
School Inventory Calls	SR2S district or school policy adopted						
GR2S Parent Gurveys	Completed SR2S parent surveys	Annual Reporting	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5			

Internal N	eed Criteria			
		Schools scored based on	80-100% or greater = 8	
Ed-Data	Free & Reduced Lunch	percentage of students eligible as	60-79% = 6	8
		reported	40-59% = 4	
			20-39% = 2	
			0-19% = 0	
		Schools are scored based on	70-100% = 0	
CA Dept of Education	Aerobic Fitness (% meeting Healthy Fitness Zone)	percentage of students achieving the benchmark fitness level	40-70% = 3	5
		the benchmark intress lever	0-40% = 5	
		Schools are scored based total	Above 300 = 5	
Ed-Data	Student Enrollment	student enrollment	101-300 = 3	5
		student em omnent	Under 100 = 1	

- School Readiness –
  SR2S involvement/
  interest, Admin &
  Parent Support,
  Policy
- Internal Need Free/reduced lunch,
  Aerobic Fitness,
  Enrollment



#### SR2S Prioritization Tool School Inventory Questions

- Is your school familiar with Safe Routes to Schools? (y/n) (If you are not familiar with Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S), it is a program that focuses on increasing child safety and skills so they can get to school by walking and bicycling.)
- Who in the school administration would be willing to work with us and other schools on these issues? (We are simply looking for a contact person we can share information with and/or help with ped/bike safety questions and concerns.)
- Have you engaged in SR2S programs or had discussions as a school? (y/n?)
  If yes, describe program (i.e. Participate in Walk to School Days, Had traffic
  calming/infrastructure improvements)
- Is there a SR2S (or walking/bicycling) champion at your school? (Is there a parent, teacher, or administrator who is active/enthusiastic about helping kids safely walk/bike to school? Can I have their contact information.
- Have there been concerns around child health or kids getting enough physical activity?
- 6. Are you aware of lessons/activities taught through P.E. or Health Education that focus on Physical Activity?
- 7. Have there been safety concerns around kids traveling to school?
- 8. Are there safety or health concerns around the pick-up/drop-off zone?
- 9. Does your school have an active PTA/PTO or engaged parent group? If yes, what is his/her name? Do you have contact information?
- 10. Do you know how many kids walk or bike to your school?
- 11. What are the main walking routes to your school?
- 12. Does your school have bicycle parking? Is it covered/protected?
- 13. Does your school have a crossing guard? At which road crossing?

If no, have you had a crossing guard in the past? At which road crossing?

- 14. Are you aware of school district, city, or informal policies around transportation of children to your school? (i.e. Supportive SR2S policies, limits on car iding, pickup/drop-of location procedures, limits to walking/bicycling/skateboarding,etc.)
- 15. What afterschool programs occur at your school?

Who runs the program/s?

Is physical activity incorporated into this program (if not obvious, like basketball)

#### Determined by school inventory phone calls







- Based on publicly available data
  - ✓ Free/reduced meals
  - ✓ Fitness data
  - ✓ Enrollment







#### Prioritization based on:

Data Source	Criteria Description	iteria Description Measured by					
External Need	d Criteria						
			Absent = 5				
School Inventory Calls	Pedestrian facilities	Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated pedestrian facilities leading to the school campus.	Present but insufficient = 3	5			
			Present = 0				
			School on a road over 35mph = 10				
Humboldt County Road Centerline Shapefile	Posted Speed limit	Speed limit of school roads and speed limits of roads intersecting within 660 ft	Intersects Over 35mph = 5	5			
			25 or under and no intersections = 1				
HCAOG Regional		Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated bicycle	Absent = 5				
HCAOG Regional Trails Master Plan Shapefiles	Existing bicycle and trail facilities	facilities within 660 ft buffer leading to the school campus. Includes only Class I and II facilities and trails.	Present = 0	5			
2012 Census or American		Scored are based on the percentage of carless households per census	13-17% = 5 9-12% = 4 6-8% = 3	5			
Communities Survey (ACS)	Percentage of carless households	area in which the surveyed school is located. Classification performed	3-5% = 2				
ourvey (ACS)		by natural breaks (Jenks Method).	0-2% = 1				
UC Berkeley		Based on the total number of bike	25-71 = 5	_			
SafeTREC Transportation	Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision	or pedestrian involved collisions within .5 mile buffer, scores	6-24 = 3	5			
Injury Mapping System (TIMS) / Caltrans SWITRS	Frequency	assigned based on natural breaks in the data	1-5 = 1 0 = 0	5			

	Total Readiness Score	35
	Total Need Score	43
	Total Possible Score	78
Adjusted score for schools without Fitness Data	Total Adjusted Score	73

• External Need –
Ped/bike facilities,
Posted speed limit,
Carless households,
Collision Data



#### **External Need**

Spatial Data Component









#### **SR2S Prioritization Tool Scoring**

Data Source	Criteria Description	Measured by	Values	Maximum Score	Grant Elementary	Alice Birney Elementary	South Fortuna Elementary	Freshwater School and Charter School	Elementary	Toddy Thomas Middle School	Lafayette Elementary	Norman G. Ambrosini School	Redwood Preparatory Charter School	Blue Lake School	Redway School	Garfield School	Orick School	Weitchpec Elementary School	Dow's Prairie School	South Fork High School	Washington Elementary	Jacoby Creek Charter School	Trinity Valley	Coastal Grove Charter School	South Bay School and Charter School	Cutten School	Fuente Nueve	Pine Hill	Trinidad Elementary School	McKinleyville Middle School
School Readi	iness Criteria																													
School Inventory Calls	School administration support	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
School Inventory Calls	SR2S activities/discussions/interest	Presence/Absence	Ongoing = 10 Present = 5 Absent = 0	10	10	10	5	5	5	10	5	5	5	5	10	5	0	5	5	0	5	10	0	5	5	0	5	5	5	0
School Inventory Calls	SR2S champion present at the school	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	5	0	5	0	5	5	0	5	0
School Inventory	Active school/parent support organization (e.g. PTO/PTA, Booster Club, school site council)	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	S
School Inventory Calls	SR2S district or school policy adopted	Presence/Absence	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SR2S Parent Surveys	Completed SR2S parent surveys	Annual Reporting	Present = 5 Absent = 0	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Internal Need	d Criteria																													
Ed-Data	Free & Reduced Lunch	Schools scored based on percentage of students eligible as reported	80-100% or greater = 8 60-79% = 6 40-59% = 4 20-39% = 2 0-19% = 0	8	8	8	6	2	4	4	6	4	0	4	6	2	8	8	4	4	4	0	6	4	6	4	2	4	6	4
CA Dept of Education	Aerobic Fitness (% meeting Healthy Fitness Zone)	Schools are scored based on percentage of students achieving the benchmark fitness level	70-100% = 0 40-70% = 3 0-40% = 5	5	5	5	3	3	5	3	3	NA	NA	3	3	3	NA	NA	3	3	3	0	5	0	3	3	NA	3	0	3
Ed-Data	Student Enrollment	Schools are scored based total student enrollment	Above 300 = 5 101-300 = 3	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	1	3	5	1	1	1	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	5	1	3	3	5
			Under 100 = 1																	_								-		
Data Source Criteria Description Measured by Values Score																														
External Need	ed Criteria																													
School Inventory Calls	Pedestrian facilities	Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated pedestrian facilities leading to the school campus.	Absent = 5  Present but insufficient = 3  Present = 0	5	3	3	0	S	5	0	3	5	5	0	3	5	5	5	5	5	0	3	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Humboldt County Road Centerline Shapefile	Posted Speed limit	Speed limit of school roads and speed limits of roads intersecting within 660 ft	School on a road over 35mph = 10 Intersects Over 35mph = 5 25 or under and no intersections = 1	5	5	1	5	10	10	5	1	5	10	10	5	1	10	5	1	10	1	1	10	1	1	5	1	5	1	5
HCAOG Regional Trails Master Plan Shapefiles	Existing bicycle and trail facilities	Score based on the presence or absence of dedicated bicycle facilities within 660 ft buffer leading to the school campus. Includes only Class I and II facilities and trails.	Absent = 5 Present = 0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0
2012 Census or American Communities Survey (ACS)	Percentage of carless households	Scored are based on the percentage of carless households per census area in which the surveyed school is located. Classification performed by natural breaks (Jenks Method).	6-8% = 3	5	3	3	4	1	4	2	3	4	2	1	1	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	5	2	2	5	2	3	3
	Bicycle and Pedestrian Collision Frequency	Based on the total number of bike or pedestrian involved collisions within 5 mile buffer, scores assigned based on natural breaks in the data	25-71 = 5 6-24 = 3 1-5 = 1 0 = 0	5	1	5	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	1	3	1	0	1
			Total Readiness Score	35	35	35	30	25	20	30	25	20	25	25	30	30	15	20	25	15	25	35	10	25	20	20	25	20	25	20
			Total Need Score	43	35	35	31	32	36	25	27	29	24	26	21	20	32	27	24	33	23	12	37	21	26	25	17	23	18	21
			Total Possible Score	78	70	70	61	57	56	55	52	49	49	51	51	50	47	47	49	48	48	47	47	46	46	45	42	43	43	41
		Adjusted score for schools	Total Adjusted	73								52	52				50	50									45			



- Collaborative process
- Allows jurisdictions to apply for funding on behalf of high ranking schools
- Introduce rural schools to SR2S
- Make grant applications more competitive

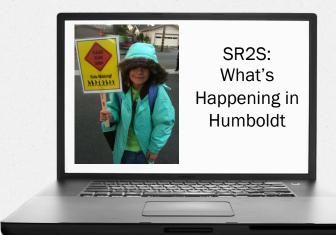






http://hcaog.net/documents/safe-routes-school-whats-happening-humboldt

- Parent Survey Reports
- Prioritization Tool
- Walk Audit Reports
- Task Force meeting agendas and minutes



#### Successes!

- Cycle 10 State SR2S funding for I at Grant
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for NI program at Eureka City Schools Mobility Education Program
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for I-NI program at Toddy Thomas MS in Fortuna
- Cycle 1 ATP funding for I-NI program for Remote Drop Off at Lafayette Elementary School in Eureka, CA.























#### Successes!



Cycle 2 ATP funding for
 I/NI programs for 6 additional
 schools/communities!

### THANK YOU!



Jenny Weiss, Senior Planner, Natural Resources Services, RCAA 707-269-2062 weiss@nrsrcaa.org

Emily Sinkhorn, Active Living Manager, Natural Resources Services, RCAA 707-269-2061 emily@nrsrcaa.org







## Partnerships in rural Merced County lead to a SRTS Policy

Safe Routes to School Webinar May 24, 2016



#### Disclosure

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### Characteristics of Merced County

- Located in the San Joaquin Valley of California
- 6 cities and 18 unincorporated communities
- Rural and agricultural
- Majority Hispanic
- Diverse/young population
- High unemployment and poverty
- High rates of overweight obesity



### Winton

- Small, unincorporated community
- Demographics: Over 70% Hispanic



- Challenges: high rates of obesity, crime, loose dogs, poor infrastructure (e.g., limited sidewalks and unmaintained roads)
- One school district:
  - 3 elementary schools
  - 1 middle school
  - Approximately 2,000 students

### The Winton Story

#### **Funding**

**Community Partners** 

Stakeholder Involvement

Resident Engagement

Data

**Experts** 

- CA4Health Community Transformation Grant
- Partnerships to Improve Community Health
- Winton School District
- Cultiva La Salud
- Lifeline CDC
- Public Works
- Planning
- Elected
- Encouragement/education activities through school
- Walk/Bike Audits
- SRTS Parent Survey
- Health Data
- Local Government Commission

#### How did it start?

#### **Funding**

 CA4Health Community Transformation Grant

### Partnerships and Stakeholder Involvement

- Merced Bicycle Coalition
- Local Government Commission
- Elected Officials
- Winton School District
- Public Works and County Planning
- Central California Regional
   Obesity Prevention Program







#### **Data Collection**

- Safe Routes to School Parent Surveys
  - Over 800 surveys collected
  - More than 70% of students lived within 1 mile but
    - only ¼ of students walked to and/or from school
    - less than 1% of students rode a bicycle to and/or from school
  - Some of the top reasons parents didn't allow students to walk or bike
    - Violence/Crime
    - Safety of Intersections/Crossings
    - Speed
    - Amount of traffic
    - Sidewalks or Pathways

### Encouragement/Education Activities

- Stakeholder Education
- Bike Rodeos
- Helmet Fittings
- Bike Safety Assemblies
- Media Campaign
- Walk/Bike Assessments







### Walk/Bike Assessments









### Assessment Map



#### Results:

#### **Comprehensive Districtwide SRTS Policy**

- Requires traffic safety training/education for staff and students
- Supports creation of walking school bus/bicycle trains
- Encourages and promotes events such as Walk/Bike to school day
- Includes 'no idling' policy for buses and cars

#### **Awarded Caltrans Active Transportation Program Grant**

- Collaboration between Public Works and Public Health
- Infrastructure includes curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Non-infrastructure education on proper use and continuation of encouragement activities.

#### BP51

#### WINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL POLICY

The Winton School District supports active transportation, including walking and bicycling, to and from school, Walking, bicycling public trainer law, and other forms of active transportation not only save costs related to busing students, but they also allow students to engage in physical activity, which reduces the risk of obesity and related chronic diseases such as disheless, heard disease, stricke, and cancer. Physical activity also improves mental health, altendance, and academic parformance. Further, replacing automobile trips with active commutes reduces one's acrother obligation and decreases traits congestion and air pollution, which is of particular benefit to students with asthma. Fever automobile trips also reduce the risk of injury to students from collisions with automobiles.

Winton School District supports Safe Routes to School programs and activities because they have been shown

- Increase physical activity levels for students
- Improve student health,
- Decrease automobile congestion and related danger of injury to students
- Reduce air pollution and related greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce costs related to busing, and
- Improve attendance rates and student achievement.

District further supports efforts to increase participation in Safe Routes to School programs and activities in those schools with the fewest resources, and among low-income students, students with health challenges, and those with physical and mental disabilities.

The roles of District, families, and students regarding travel to and from school are as follows:

- a. District/Schools. The role of District and individual schools is to encourage sale travel to and from school, and particularly to encourage active transportation. Notwithstanding certain exceptions, District and individual schools assume no liability for injuries or other damages, including property damage, that may occur while a student is in transit to and from school.
- b. Parents and Guardians. The role of parents and guardians is to make informed decisions about which mode of transportation beat suits their student in light of the student's personality, age, maturity, physical and cognitive development, and decision-making abilities, and the street, traffic, crime, and other relevant conditions likely to be encountered by the student when traveling to and from school. Parents and guardians are legally responsible and otherwise accountable for their student's sately and well-lengt when the subtent is traveling to and from school.
- c. Students. The role of students is to be safe and responsible while traveling to and from school, following state and local law and the rules established by their families, and obeying school rules while traveling on school campus. Students should act as good role models for their peers by observing traffic and safety rules, caring for property and being courtious to others.

### Ongoing Efforts and Next Steps

- CDC Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) funding:
  - □ Open Use Policies for Winton School District
  - Winton Community Plan
  - □ Winton Park Plan
- ☐ Implementation of Caltrans Active Transportation Program summer 2016

#### Lessons

- Work with local partners
- Utilize experts
- Collect data
- Small amounts of money go a long way
- Collaborate
- Have fun!

#### Contact Information:

Stephanie Nathan, MPH
Public Health Program Manger
Merced County Department of Public Health
(209) 381-1265

snathan@co.merced.ca.us

### **ATP Cycle 3**

- Funding years 2019/20 & 2020/21
- Approximately \$240 Million available
- Final guidance posted on California Transportation Commission (CTC) website:
  - www.catc.ca.gov/programs/ATP.htm
- ATP Cycle 3 Application and Instructions are available on the Caltrans ATP website:
  - www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp

### **ATP Cycle 3 Schedule**

- ATP Cycle 3 Call for projects released April 15
- Project Applications Due (postmark) June 15
- Applications to be delivered electronically AND hard copies by mail
- Projects not selected under the Statewide/Small Urban/Rural solicitation are distributed to MPO's based on their location for an MPO selection process. Check with your local MPO for additional requirements and deadline information.
- The CTC will adopt the MPO projects January 27, 2017
- Statewide & Small Urban/Rural project adoption: December 7-8, 2016
- Check CTC and Caltrans websites for the latest information

## Questions for our presenters?

(please use the <u>chat</u> function)

**Justine Hearn,** California Department of Public Health, Active Transportation Safety Program

#### Your feedback

 Look out for a Survey Gizmo email to solicit your feedback on today's webinar.

• It will also include questions regarding your interest in additional assistance in your SRTS work and Cycle 3 applications.

### **More Questions?**

 If you have more questions after today's webinar, please contact us:

- ATRC webpage: <u>www.CAsaferoutestoschool.org/safe-routes-to-school-programs-in-rural-california-a-guide-for-communities-and-partners/</u>
- Justine's contact information: justine.hearn@cdph.ca.gov

### Your ATRC Non-Infrastructure Regional Technical Assistance Coordinators:



#### Mary Strode, MS

Districts 5, 6, and 9 Phone: 916-552-9943 Mary.Strode@cdph.ca.gov

#### Victoria Custodio, MPH

**Districts 4 and 7** Phone: 916-552-9833

Victoria.Custodio@cdph.ca.gov

#### Kristin Haukom, MPH

Districts 8, 11, and 12 Phone: 916-208-1885

Kristin.Haukom@cdph.ca.gov

#### **Justine Hearn, MA**

Districts 1 and 2

Phone: 916-552-9822

Justine.Hearn@cdph.ca.gov

#### Jane Kemp, MA

District 3 and 10

Phone: 916-552-9832

Jane.Kemp@cdph.ca.gov