



On Our Own Two Feet!

Vermont Safe Routes to School
Annual Meeting
March 2016



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- On Our Own Two Feet!
- New Resources
- What to expect next year
- Meet the Regional Experts/Break out groups (by region)
- *Break*
- Your questions/other resources or topics
- Awards Ceremony



On Our Own Two Feet!

- Dedicated SRTS Federal funding is ending
 - As of spring 2016, the Resource Center will no longer be staffed
 - SRTS infrastructure projects will still be funded (but will compete with other projects)
- What does this mean for the VT SRTS Resource Center?
 - The resources will still be available, but not staff.



VT SRTS Goal

- To encourage students to walk and bike to school regularly, routinely, and safely
- To create *self-sustaining* SRTS programs at schools





What is a *Self-Sustaining* SRTS Program?

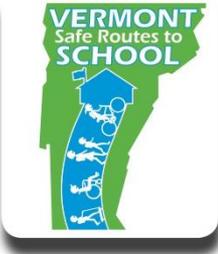
- Walking and biking to school are routine.
- Enforcement, encouragement, education, and evaluation are all embedded in the school culture.



Program Structure



* Choose one of these two activities to meet this partner level



SRTS Community

- Important to continue communications
- Local Motion
- Peer-to-peer
- Consider meet-ups
 - Virtual annual meetings/conference calls
- Online forums/email lists
- Vermont Walk/Bike Summit





NEW RESOURCES



STATE OF VERMONT

Safe Routes to School

SEARCH

CONTACT

Home

About Us

Community

Regional Experts

Resources

School Partner Program

Don't forget, this spring the Vermont Safe Routes to School program will be transitioning to a [stand-alone model](#)! Resources will be available on this website to support your program starting in February 2016. Join us at the [Annual Meeting](#) on March 16th in Randolph to meet the new Regional Expert Panel, who will be available for advice on implementing SRTS activities in the upcoming year.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a comprehensive program based on a simple premise: our kids should be able to safely walk and bike to school. Walking and biking to school helps students develop independence, improves academic performance, helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution, and helps create a stronger community.

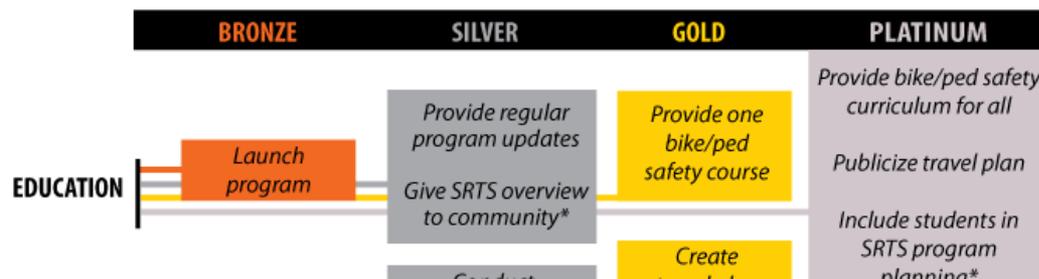


Participating schools use the 5 E's (education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation strategies) to make it safer, easier, and more fun for students and their families to walk and bike to school.

The Vermont Safe Routes to School Partner Program guides schools through these strategies and activities, earning Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Level status as they advance. Schools that progress through the Silver Level typically have established programs and see an increase in students walking and biking safely to school.

Partner Program Overview

The following diagram outlines activities to be completed at each level. Details can be found on the School Partner Program page.





Regional Expert Panel (REP)

Program Experts

- Education
- Encouragement
- Evaluation
- Enforcement

Technical Experts

- Engineering
 - Mapping
 - Assisting with travel plan
 - Walk audits



Regional Expert Panel (REP)

Program Experts

- Program start up assistance
- Questions about organizing events
- Advice about Walk Smart/Bike Smart curriculum training
- Assistance with student tallies/parent surveys

Technical Experts

- School travel plan assistance
- Walk audits and existing conditions assessments
- Advice on potential infrastructure projects
- Guidance on next steps/project development process



MiniGuides

- Starting a Program
- Walk & Roll to School Days
- Contests and Incentives
- Teaching Walking and Biking Safety
- Walking School Buses and Bike Trains
- Measuring Success
- Safety and Law Enforcement
- Working with Your Community
- Walk Audit
- Creating Your Travel Plan
- Arrival & Dismissal

Starting a Program
Mini Guide
saferoutes.vermont.gov

WHAT'S IN THIS MINIGUIDE?

Welcome to Safe Routes to School! This guide will help you start a SRTS program and get your students walking and rolling to school.

This VT SRTS MiniGuide explains the initial steps to starting a SRTS program in your community.

In this MiniGuide, you will find:

- Basic Steps
- Partner Program Overview
- Progress Reports
- Resources

What is it?
Starting a program consists of identifying your SRTS Champion, announcing the program, and planning your first event.

Why is it important?
A strong start builds momentum for a successful program. Having a dynamic team with an understanding of the SRTS Partner Program is the cornerstone of implementing walking and biking activities and events.

What is the level of effort involved?
Moderate: Identifying a Champion and SRTS Team, coordinating with school and school community.

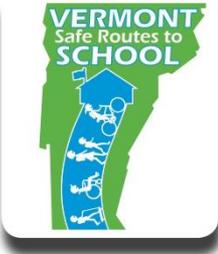
BASIC STEPS

RESOURCES

Additional resources from VT SRTS and the National SRTS Resource Center are linked or available for download on the VT SRTS website:

- **Announcement Letter** [📄](#): Editable letter to announce and explain the program to parents and the school community.
- **SRTS Presentation** [📄](#): Editable presentation to introduce SRTS to the school community, PTO or other group.
- **Regional Experts** [👤](#): Local staff and experienced SRTS volunteers who can help you with guidance and troubleshooting.
- **MiniGuides** [📄](#): Short guides to walk schools through activities to implement as part of your SRTS program.

Vermont Safe Routes to School / Starting a Program MiniGuide / www.saferoutes.vermont.gov Page 1



What to Expect Next Year

- Gathering data (student tallies) and sending it to the National Center
- Holding Walk&Roll events and contests
- Participate in Way to Go!
- Working with community
- Filling out your progress reports



Safe Routes to School

 [SEARCH](#)
[CONTACT](#)

- Home
- About SRTS
- School Partner Program
 - The 5 E's
 - Partner Profiles**
- Resources
- Regional Experts
- Community

PARTNER PROFILES

Under construction. Progress reports coming soon.

Schools registered with the VT SRTS program: Record your progress through the program levels here. Click on your school's name to access your progress report. Please keep this report current and notify the **Technical Expert** in your region when you've completed the steps to advance to the next level.

Schools new to SRTS: Create a new progress report [here](#) and contact the **Technical Expert** in your region to announce your program.

Current Partner Schools

Albert Bridge School / [Progress Report](#) / [Travel Plan](#)

Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School / [Progress Report](#)

Alburgh Community Education Center / [Progress Report](#) / [Travel Plan](#)

Allen Brook School / [Progress Report](#)

Bakersfield Elementary School / [Progress Report](#)

Barre City Elementary & Middle School / [Progress Report](#)

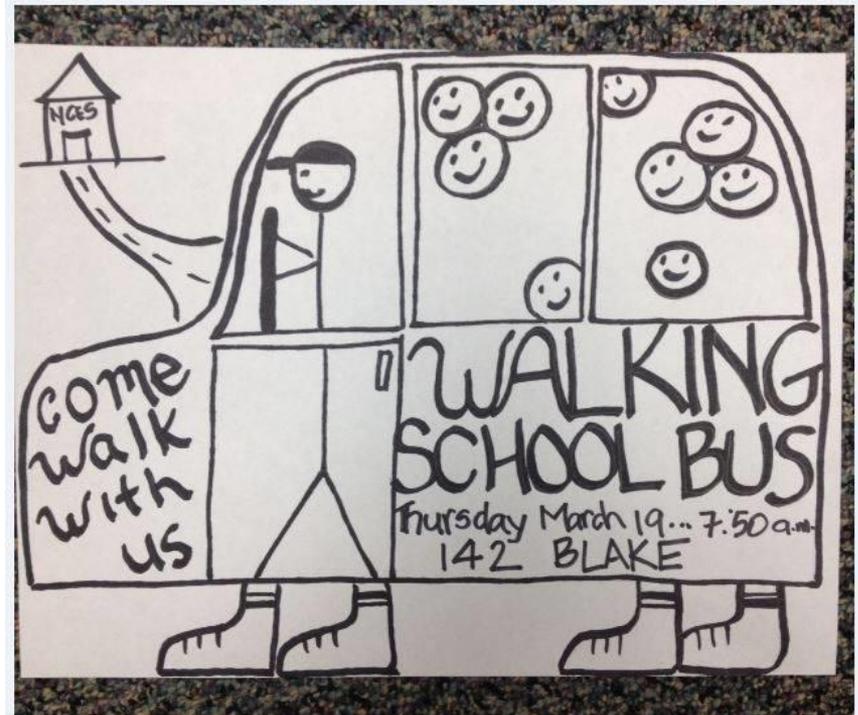
Barre Town Middle & Elementary School / [Progress Report](#)

Benson Village School / [Progress Report](#)



What to Expect Next Year (advanced partners)

- Teaching walking and biking safety
- Working on enforcement
- Gathering data (parent surveys) and sending it to the National Center
- If necessary,
 - Doing a walk audit
 - Creating/updating your travel plan





What partnership level is your school?

Have you thought about what you want to accomplish next year?

Have others in your group tried out similar activities?

BREAK-OUT GROUPS: MEET YOUR REGIONAL EXPERTS



Discussion

- Are there other materials/resources that would help you?
- Do you have ideas about website resources you would like added or changed?
- Anything else we didn't cover?