



Safety and Enforcement

Mini
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Guide

WHAT'S IN THIS MINIGUIDE?

This VT SRTS MiniGuide explains how law enforcement and community members can work together to create and sustain a safe environment for walking and biking to school.

In this MiniGuide, you will find:

- “What’s your Challenge?” Solution Guide
- Enforcement Program Examples
- Real World Examples

Click this icon  to access the listed resource.

What is it?

Enforcing traffic laws and encouraging community actions to maximize safety. This typically involves two phases:

1. Identification of challenges and partners who can help you implement solutions, and
2. Strategies that law enforcement, parents, neighbors, and the community at-large can use to promote safety.

Why is it important?

Issues such as speeding, unsafe driving behavior, bullying, and crime can all pose barriers to walking and biking.

What is the level of effort involved?

Moderate to high: Identifying problems, coordinating with law enforcement and/or community volunteers.

WHO IS INVOLVED?



RESOURCES PREVIEW

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

- **Safe Driver Pledge** : Parents formally pledge to obey all traffic rules to make it safer for students to walk and bike to school.
- **Safe Houses Application** : Neighbors can apply to serve as a “safe house” to assist students in the event they encounter an issue walking to school.
- **Crossing Guard Training Video** : This short video provides a great overview of a crossing guard’s role in Vermont.
- **Crossing Guard Guidelines** : This document provides detailed information about the role of the crossing guard, the elements of a crossing guard program, and crossing procedures for a variety of situations.
- **Yard Sign Template** : Schools can print these and display along routes to school to remind drivers to slow down.

Enforcement Program Examples

These are some examples of strategies that community members and law enforcement can use to make walking and biking safer. Each strategy requires a different level of planning, coordination, and effort. Some enforcement strategies are ongoing, while others are periodic or temporary.

COMMUNITY EXAMPLES

Corner Captains

Stationed outside at designated locations, corner captains can improve personal security by serving as “eyes on the street” and supervise during the morning and afternoon.

Slow Down Yard Signs

The school, neighbors, and law enforcement work together to identify speeding problem areas and recruit residents to post “Slow Down” yard signs. This strategy works well with **Speed Trailers** (see below).

Safe Houses Program

A Safe House is a home along a route to school that is clearly marked as a safe place for students if they need assistance or help. Homeowners do not have to be at home at all times but ideally an adult should be home during arrival and dismissal periods.

Safe Driver Pledge

Parents or neighbors sign a pledge indicating they will follow all traffic rules.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXAMPLES

Speed Trailers

Speed Trailers are electronic roadside signs mounted on a trailer that tell drivers how fast they are going and can flash when they are going too fast. They can be used on residential streets leading to/from school. They are intended as a targeted or short-term measure rather than permanent one.

Enforcement

Law enforcement officers target specific driver behaviors that have been identified as a problem, such as speeding, blocking crosswalks, or passing school buses. It is best used at a specific location on periodic basis.

Adult Crossing Guard Program

Adult crossing guards help students cross streets near school. Guards must be trained and have a complete understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The VT SRTS Resource Center produced a **short video** [📺](#) that provides this training.

Patrol School Zones

Police officers patrol near schools during arrival and dismissal to direct traffic, crack down on unsafe driving, or target criminal activity near the school.

Safety Workshops for Students

Law enforcement staff conduct workshops to teach students about specific traffic or safety related issues. The topic of the workshop can depend on identified needs, behaviors, and gaps in student knowledge.

Caught Being Good Program

Law enforcement staff hand out small rewards when they notice students practicing safe walking and biking behaviors, and drivers operating safely and courteously. Parents, students, and the community should be informed of this practice.

What's Your Challenge?

Use this Solution Guide to identify your challenge, figure out who can help, and what they can do. Once you have chosen your strategies, invite relevant law enforcement officers or community members to help implement these strategies. See “Enforcement Program Examples” on page 3 for details about each strategy.



WHO	WHAT'S HAPPENING?	WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN DO	WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN DO
<p>Drivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding on streets near school or in designated school zones • Failing to yield at crosswalks • Disobeying stop lights or stop signs • Passing school buses discharging • Blocking crosswalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding on streets near school or in designated school zones • Failing to yield at crosswalks • Disobeying stop lights or stop signs • Passing school buses discharging • Blocking crosswalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Speed Trailers • Conduct Enforcement • Launch an Adult Crossing Guard Program • Patrol School Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install Slow Down Yard Signs • Distribute Safe Driver Pledges • Use Corner Captains
<p>Pedestrians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing at unsafe or unexpected locations • Disobeying crossing guard or traffic signals • Not looking before crossing the street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing at unsafe or unexpected locations • Disobeying crossing guard or traffic signals • Not looking before crossing the street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch an Adult Crossing Guard Program and regularly train guards • Hold Safety Workshops for Students • Implement a Caught Being Good Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Corner Captains • Promote a Walking School Bus to educate students on safe walking (see the Walking School Bus MiniGuide)
<p>Bicyclists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not looking before crossing the street • Riding against traffic • Disobeying traffic signals and signs • Not using hand signals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not looking before crossing the street • Riding against traffic • Disobeying traffic signals and signs • Not using hand signals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch an Adult Crossing Guard Program • Hold Safety Workshops for Students • Implement a Caught Being Good Program • Patrol School Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Corner Captains • Promote a Bike Train to educate students on safe biking (see the Walking School Bus MiniGuide)
<p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty crime • Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty crime • Bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrol School Zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Corner Captains • Start a Safe Houses Program • Promote a Walking School Bus and/or Bike Train (see the Walking School Bus MiniGuide)

Crossing Guard Program

Crossing guards assist students (and adults) crossing at designated locations near a school. In addition to helping students cross the street, crossing guards can demonstrate safe crossing procedures, encourage safe behavior, observe and report incidents or unsafe conditions, and encourage active travel to school. Interested in starting a crossing guard program? If your school does not have a crossing guard program and you think there is a need for one, talk to your school district or municipality. You can provide them with a list of suggested locations for a crossing guard. Clearly explain the reason a crossing guard is needed and provide any data or studies, such as a school travel plan.

WHO CAN BE A CROSSING GUARD?

Adult crossing guards should meet the following criteria:

- Good physical condition, including sight, hearing, and ability to move and maneuver quickly
- Ability to control a STOP paddle effectively
- Ability to communicate specific instructions clearly, firmly and courteously
- Ability to recognize potentially dangerous traffic situations
- Pass a criminal offender record information (CORI)

CROSSING GUARD RESOURCES

The following resources can be useful whether you have an existing crossing guard program or are just getting started.

- VT SRTS online video: Best Practices for Safe Crossing [↗](#)
- National Safe Routes to School Adult Crossing Guard guidelines [↗](#)

CROSSING GUARD APPRECIATION DAY

Show support for your crossing guard by participating in Crossing Guard Appreciation Day! Each state manages their own Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, which typically occurs the first week in February. Feel free to start your own traditions.

Crossing Guard Appreciation Day Ideas

- Ask students to make cards for their crossing guards
- Work with the PTO to organize a celebratory breakfast
- Send flyers home with parents reminding them about safety and crossing guards
- Ask local businesses to donate a small gift or gift card for guards
- Just remember to say "Thank you!"



New Jersey crossing guard and the thank you card that the students made for her

Virginia SRTS Crossing Guard Appreciation Day Poster

Real World Examples

- 1** **Newport City Elementary's** SRTS Team partnered with a local bike group, AARP and the state health department to launch an "Our Town, Slow it Down" Campaign. The coalition organized a public forum to discuss street safety and brainstorm solutions. The group published editorials in the local newspaper urging safe driving practices and put up lawn signs throughout the Town reminding drivers to slow down.



- 2** **Lawrence Barnes Sustainability Academy** in Burlington developed a unique Student Safety Patrol. The lead crossing guard trains 5th and 6th grade volunteers on traffic, pedestrian and bike rules. These student patrol officers assist adult crossing guards at busy intersections.

- 3** **St. Albans Town Education Center** holds Walk to School Days each Wednesday. The school organizes four Walking School Buses lead by school staff. Each Walking School Bus leaves from a remote drop off site where parents can take their children. The school makes announcements through their newsletter and over the intercom to publicize the event. The School Resource Officer also recruits the police department to assist with busy intersection crossings along the walking route to school. Police officers control traffic and bring attention to the weekly walks.

