

Policy 5142.2: Safe Routes To School Program

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2009 | Last Revised Date: 06/01/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 06/01/2021

CSBA NOTE: The following optional policy may be revised to reflect district practice.

Education Code 44808 provides that districts are not responsible or in any way liable for the conduct or safety of students at any time when students are not on school property unless the district has undertaken to provide transportation for students to and from the school premises, has undertaken a school-sponsored activity off premises, has otherwise specifically assumed responsibility or liability, or has failed to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances. Districts should consult CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel and/or the district's insurance provider regarding any potential liability issues. Also see BP/AR 5142 - Safety.

Strategies to promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school may be included in the district's school wellness policy, adopted pursuant to 42 USC 1758b, which is required to include goals for physical activity, the district's comprehensive safety plan adopted pursuant to Education Code 32282, and the district's environmental programs. See BP 5030 - Student Wellness, AR 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan, and BP 3510 - Green School Operations.

The Governing Board recognizes that walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school increase students' physical activity and reduce vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. As part of the district's coordinated approach to supporting student wellness and safety and enhancing student learning and achievement, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies to establish and encourage safe routes to school program activities.

All students shall have equitable access and opportunity to participate in the district's safe routes to school program.

CSBA NOTE: Districts that have a school wellness council and/or a committee that focuses on environmental efforts may want to identify those groups to assist with the planning and coordination of safe routes to school activities, as described below. Districts may revise the following paragraph to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee may appoint a program coordinator and identify or establish district and/or school site committees to oversee and coordinate related activities.

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with local public works and public safety departments, transportation agencies, other city and county agencies, school staff, students, parents/guardians and parent organizations, health organizations, community organizations, and/or businesses in the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies.

Strategies in support of the safe routes to school program shall be based on the grade levels of the students and an assessment of the conditions and needs of each school and the surrounding neighborhoods.

CSBA NOTE: Both state and federal grants are available to support local efforts to increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school and to make it safer for them to do so. Pursuant to 23 USC 133, funding for infrastructure and noninfrastructure projects that support safe routes to schools may be available under the Surface Transportation Block Grant. At the state level, districts may apply for funding through the Active Transportation Program (ATP) (Streets and Highways Code 2380-2385). Funding for both federal and state programs is distributed through the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Division of Local Assistance.

Additionally, the district may collaborate with local agencies and organizations to find funding sources and may seek alternative funding sources for district projects and events that are not covered by a grant.

Streets and Highways Code 2380 expresses legislative intent that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the ATP, and Streets and Highways Code 2382 requires that the guidelines for the ATP ensure that no less than 25 percent of overall program funds benefit disadvantaged communities, as defined, during each program cycle.

The Superintendent or designee shall explore the availability of grant funds and other sources of funding to support related projects and activities.

CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph may be revised to reflect indicators agreed upon by the Governing Board and Superintendent to assess progress toward program goals. To assist with program evaluation, the

National Center for Safe Routes to School (NCSRTS) has developed a standardized survey of parents/guardians' attitudes about allowing their child to walk or bicycle to school as well as student tally forms for recording the modes of travel that students use. NCSRTS recommends that a district use these forms both before and after implementation of a project in order to evaluate changes in attitudes and behaviors. NCSRTS also provides an online data system to enter and view data collected from the parent surveys and student tallies. Caltrans requires the use of these evaluation forms by grant recipients.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of program activities and progress toward program goals. Such reports may include, but are not limited to, levels of participation in promotional and educational activities, survey results of parent/guardian attitudes about allowing their child to walk or bicycle to school, tallies of the numbers of students using various modes of travel to and from school and how these numbers have changed over time, records of student attendance and on-time arrival, and injury data within the school and/or district attendance boundaries.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

	Description
Ed. Code 32282	Comprehensive safety plan
Ed. Code 38134	Use of school property
Ed. Code 44808	Liability when students are not on school property
Ed. Code 45450-45451	Crossing guards
Ed. Code 51860	Time and facilities for bicycle and scooter safety instruction
Gov. Code 65352.2	General planning: communication between cities, counties and school districts
S&H Code 2380-2385	Active Transportation Program
Streets and Highways Code 894	Statewide safety and training programs: electric bicycles
Veh. Code 21200-21213	Operation of bicycles
Veh. Code 21212	Helmet required for bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, skates
Veh. Code 21949-21971	Pedestrian rights and duties
Veh. Code 312.5	Electric bicycle
Veh. Code 406	Moped or motorized bicycle
Veh. Code 407.5	Motorized scooter

Federal References

	Description
23 USC 133	Surface transportation block grant program
23 USC 148	Highway safety improvement program
42 USC 1758b	Local wellness policy

Management Resources References

	Description
California Dept of Transportation Publication	ATP Purpose and Goals as Defined by the State Legislature and SB 99, March 2015
California Dept of Transportation Publication	Active Transportation Program Fact Sheet, January 2020
Court Decision	Cerna v. City of Oakland (2008) 161 Cal.App.4th 1340
Natl Center for Safe Routes to School Publication	Safe Routes to School Guide
Natl Highway Traffic Safety Admin Publication	Advancing Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety: A Primer for Highway Safety Professionals, April 2016
Safe Routes to School Natl Partnership Publication	Safe Routes to School by the Numbers: Using Data to Foster Walking and Biking to School, June 2016

Management Resources References**Description**

Safe Routes to School Natl Partnership Publication	Safe Routes to School 2009 Policy Report: Moving to the Future: Building on Early Achievements, March 2009
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	National Center for Safe Routes to School
Website	Safe Routes Partnership
Website	U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Safe Routes to School
Website	California Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School
Website	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Website	CSBA

Cross References**Description**

0415	Equity
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0500	Accountability
1112	Media Relations
1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
1114	District-Sponsored Social Media
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1220	Citizen Advisory Committees
1230	School-Connected Organizations
1230	School-Connected Organizations
1260	Educational Foundation
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
1700	Relations Between Private Industry And The Schools
3100	Budget
3100	Budget
3290	Gifts, Grants And Bequests
3470	Debt Issuance And Management
3471	Parcel Taxes
3510	Green School Operations
3514	Environmental Safety
3514	Environmental Safety
3540	Transportation
3541	Transportation Routes And Services
5030	Student Wellness
5142	Safety
5142	Safety
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement

Cross References

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Description[Physical Education And Activity](#)[Physical Education And Activity](#)[Comprehensive Health Education](#)[Comprehensive Health Education](#)[Facilities Master Plan](#)[Evaluating Existing Buildings](#)[Site Selection And Development](#)[Site Selection And Development](#)