

BENEFITS

of walking and biking to school



HEALTHY LIVING

Walking, biking, and skating are great ways to get more physical activity.



BETTER EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Students who are active in the morning arrive at school focused and ready to learn.



CLEANER AIR AND WATER

Walking, biking, and skating are sustainable modes of transportation that don't produce air pollution.



LESS TRAFFIC

More students walking, biking, and skating to school means less congestion around schools, which is safer and healthier for everyone.



INCREASED SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Walking and biking get families outside and talking with their neighbors.



COST-EFFECTIVE

Walking, biking, and skating are inexpensive ways to get around and require little upfront or maintenance costs.

GET INVOLVED!

- ✓ Learn more about the SRTS activities happening at your school.
- ✓ Volunteer to help with Walk & Bike to School Day, a Walking School Bus, or other encouragement event.

To learn more about how you can support Safe Routes to School at your school, please visit

www.cityoftacoma.org

or contact us at

saferoutestoschool@cityoftacoma.org

Find recommended walking, biking, and skating routes to your schools here:

www.tacomaschools.org

Get resources for bicycling in Tacoma here:

www.cityoftacoma.org



Puyallup Watershed Initiative
Active Transportation

SAFE ROUTES

— to School —

TACOMA, WA



— What is —

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL?

The Tacoma SRTS Program supports children and families walking, biking, and skating to school and aims to improve traffic safety through targeted infrastructure improvements, walking and biking safety education, and encouragement programs.

TIPS *for families*



DRIVING SAFETY TIPS



Set an Example: Obey the rules of the road. Follow your school's rules for drop off and pick up and instructions from crossing guards.

Slow Down: Slow down in school zones.

Watch for Children: Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and at unmarked intersections.

Be Alert: Avoid texting, phone calls, and other distractions while driving.

Avoid Unsafe Maneuvers: Such as mid-block U-turns, blocking a crosswalks, double-parking, or other unsafe driving behaviors.

WALKING SAFETY TIPS



Look Before You Cross: Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street. Make eye contact with drivers before stepping off the sidewalk.

Use the Crosswalk: Always cross at corners or a marked crosswalk where drivers expect to see you. Cross with the crossing guard if your school has one.

Be Visible: Wear bright colors and use lights or reflectors when it's dark outside.

BIKING SAFETY TIPS



Wear your Helmet: It's the Law. Check that your helmet fits on your head and is not cracked or broken.

Ride with Traffic: When riding on the street, ride on the right, in the direction of traffic. Follow all signs and signals.

Make Eye Contact: Don't assume that drivers see you, especially when entering or crossing a street. Make eye contact before you cross, even if it's your turn.

Be Alert: Watch for opening car doors and cars turning across your path.

Be Predictable: Ride in a straight line and always signal your moves to others.

Lock Your Bike: Always lock your bike frame and front wheel to the bike rack to prevent theft.

SRTS CONSIDERS THE SIX "E'S"



EQUITY

Equity is a consideration for all SRTS activities, ensuring that all residents have access to and can take advantage of the resources provided through the program.



EDUCATION

Informs families about transportation choices, teaches walking and biking safety skills, and promotes driver safety campaigns near schools.



ENGINEERING

Addresses the physical environment around schools to create safe and accessible places for walking, biking, and skating.



ENCOURAGEMENT

Uses events and activities to making walking, biking, and skating easy and fun.



ENFORCEMENT

Reminds everyone to follow traffic laws near schools.



EVALUATION

Monitors program outcomes to improve activities in the future.