



NEW JERSEY
**SafeRoutes
to School**



Safe Routes to School Grant Strategies & Tips

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) offers federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program funding to projects that 1) enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school, 2) make bicycling and walking a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, and 3) facilitate the development of projects that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution near New Jersey's primary and middle schools.

1. Funding is available for building bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects around schools.
2. Any New Jersey county, municipality, school or school district may apply for funds, provided that they demonstrate an ability to meet the requirements of the program. NJDOT has final authority to make a determination on the eligibility of an applicant.
3. Projects must be located within 2 miles of any school that serves students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade.
4. Funds from the SRTS program are provided on a reimbursement basis only. Applicants should assess their ability to comply with state and federal requirements before applying.
5. Applications must be submitted using NJDOT's online electronic grants administration system, SAGE.
6. Extra consideration will be given to projects in disadvantaged communities and/or communities with a Complete Streets Policy or School Wellness Policy that supports walking and biking to school.



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Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

**The New Jersey Safe Routes to
School Resource Center**

www.saferoutesnj.org

Telephone: (848) 932-7901

Email: srts@ejb.rutgers.edu

How to Increase **Your Chances** of Receiving a Safe Routes to School Grant



Secure Approval from all Parties

- ✓ Ensure you have up-front approval from all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project.
- ✓ Show evidence of support from every group, such as letters of commitment.

Create a Comprehensive Program

A good grant proposal:

- ✓ Outlines all aspects of infrastructure (access, street crossings, speed reduction, etc.) and proposes a project that addresses stated barriers, problems, and issues.
- ✓ Documents the infrastructure problems using speed studies, crash data, photos, or anything else that details the severity of the problem and demonstrates a true funding need.
- ✓ Shows that there is a plan to implement education, encouragement, and enforcement projects.

Include a School Travel Plan

An SRTS Travel Plan:

- ✓ “Maps out” how to improve pedestrian and bicycle travel to and from school to increase the number of students who walk and bike to school and to improve safety.
- ✓ Includes 6 key components: school description, working group and partnerships, mapping, walk/bike barriers and opportunities, goals and actions, and measuring progress.
- ✓ Identifies short term solutions for immediate action and implementation as well as long term solutions that may require further planning.

Identify Related Past Activities or Future Plans

- ✓ Describe previous bike/ped projects or education, enforcement or encouragement activities.
- ✓ Show all past efforts to improve bicycle or pedestrian safety, and if the application does not include efforts, document reasons for this and suggest plans to do so in the future.

Additional Suggestions

- ✓ Organize large projects into phases costing no more than approximately \$300,000 each.
- ✓ Remember that federal authorization is necessary before any work on the project may begin.
- ✓ If your application was not funded in the past, don't despair! Strengthen your application either by creating a school travel plan or improving your record of related activities and plans.
- ✓ For more information about SRTS grants, go to <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/srts.shtm>.

