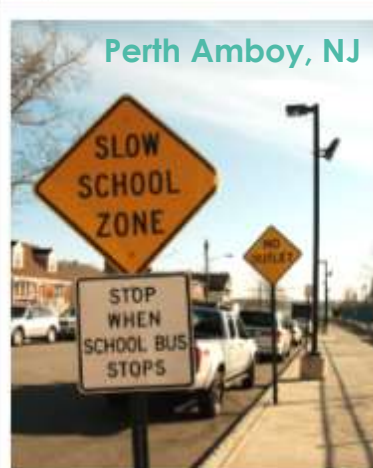




Wharton, NJ



Perth Amboy, NJ



Tenafly, NJ



Montclair, NJ



Garfield, NJ



Highland Park, NJ



Neicong, NJ



New Brunswick, NJ

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY ACTION

SUSTAINABLE JRSEY FOR SCHOOLS - 10 points



Safe Routes to School (SRTS) District Policy

Overview:

- ❖ Nation-wide initiative to encourage elementary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school.
- ❖ Ensure safe, convenient and accessible pedestrian and bicycle routes to school.
- ❖ Focus on schools through collaboration of different agencies. (Municipal, county or state transportation, land-use planning, law enforcement, and other agencies)



Note: School District must have Wellness Policy encouraging Safe Routes to School or Active Transportation Policy in place to earn points for this action



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Safe Routes to School District Policy

Importance:

- ❖ Increase in childhood obesity and lack of sufficient daily physical activity.
- ❖ Decline in rates of walking among U.S. children and adults.
- ❖ Lack of infrastructure to encourage active commuting.
- ❖ Create awareness about the benefits of active commuting and travel.
- ❖ Reduce the negative impacts of roadway congestion & greenhouse gas emissions.





Leadership and Involvement:

- ❖ Board of Education
- ❖ Superintendent
- ❖ School Principals
- ❖ School transportation coordinator
- ❖ SRTS champions within the community
(school administrators, elected officials, municipal staff, parents or PTO/PTA members, neighborhood associations, environmental group, community group)



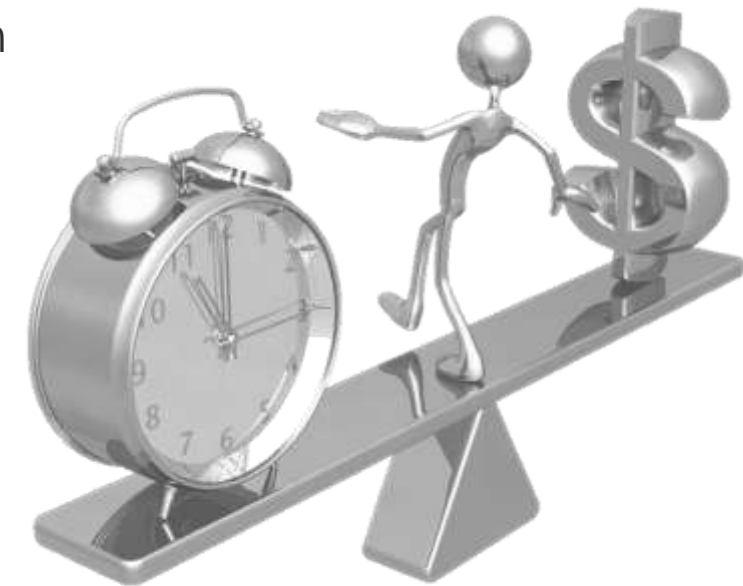
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Timeframe:

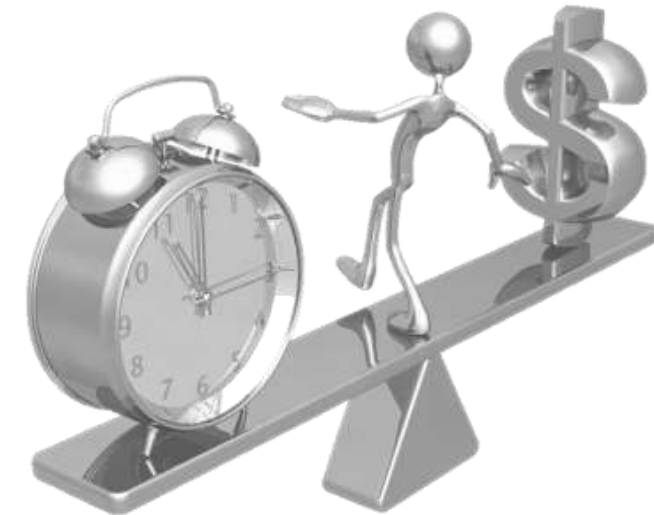
- ❖ Approximately 3 months or more to adopt a school board policy (based on the level of support from school administration and board members and number of readings needed)
- ❖ Once the policy is developed, it must be approved by the school board at an open public meeting.





Cost & Resources:

- ❖ Dependent on the amount of staff and volunteer time needed to:
 - Build awareness and allies in the school community regarding the need for the policy.
 - Develop the policy through a collaborative process that involves district administration, school staff, parents, non-profit organizations, community members, other interested parties.
 - Shepherd the policy through the board committee review process and place on a board meeting agenda for approval.
 - Distribute the policy to the district's schools with guidance on implementation and compliance.





SRTS District Policy – Recommendations:

1. Lay the Groundwork.
 - ❖ Clarify objectives of the proposed policy with data specific to the school district
 - ❖ Perform necessary background research
 - ❖ Identify financial, contractual and scheduling implications for policy options.
2. Build Awareness and Support.
 - ❖ Enlist support for goals and strategies
 - ❖ Identify pertinent school staff, transportation coordinators, PTA/ PTO, community green team members and bicycle and pedestrian advocates to support the effort.
 - ❖ Seek technical assistance from SRTS Coordinators.



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SRTS District Policy – Recommendations (continued):

3. Anticipate, respond to, and involve critics.
4. Draft the Policy.
 - ❖ Use simple, clear, specific, and accurate language.
 - ❖ Include a rationale for the policy; describe the benefits of adopting it.
 - ❖ Build in and cite accountability.
 - ❖ Ensure that the policy provides practical guidance to school staff members about how to address specific issues.
 - ❖ Include provisions for policy evaluation and periodic review.





SRTS District Policy – Recommendations (continued):

5. Adopt the policy.
 - ❖ Present the final draft to the school board with background information.
 - ❖ Encourage advocates to attend meetings to show their support.
6. Implement the policy.
 - ❖ Post the policy publicly on the school district website.
 - ❖ Distribute annually to staff, students and parents/ guardians in a Student Handbook/ Parent information material at every school within the school district.
 - ❖ Connect with agencies involved to promote safe walking and biking in the community.





SRTS District Policy – Documentation Submission Requirements:

1. Description of Implementation:
 - ❖ In the text box provide a short summary of the policy implemented including when it was approved, what/who it applies to, and the status of implementation efforts.
2. Upload a copy of the policy adopted by the school board with date of adoption.
3. If the policy has been in effect for more than six months, upload evidence of policy implementation in the current school year.
 - ❖ postings on the district website; inclusion in the student handbook; internal correspondence; information provided to staff, students and parents; program overviews/data, etc.

Note: Approved actions will be set to expire in 2.5 years from the application submission date if the documentation includes evidence that the policy has been implemented. Points awarded for a policy less than six months old will be set to expire August 31 of the year the certification application was submitted. To reapply for this action, provide evidence that the policy has been implemented and the district actively encourages walking and biking to school.





SRTS District Policy – Spotlight:

Brigantine School Wellness Policy

http://www.saferoutesnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Brigantine-Wellness-Policy_2012.pdf.

Camden Wellness Policy on Nutrition and Physical Activity

<http://www.saferoutesnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Camden-BOE-Policy-Nov-2012-Final.pdf>

<http://www.saferoutesnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Camden-BOE-Wellness-Regulation-Nov-2012-Final.pdf>.



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SRTS District Policy – Resources:

Active Living Research: offers a range of tools and resources to help practitioners, policy-makers, and advocates create more activity-friendly environments.
<http://activelivingresearch.org/>

ChangeLab Solutions: provides community-based solutions for America's most common and preventable diseases like cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and asthma
<http://changelabsolutions.org/>

The *Interactive Safe Routes to School Policy Workbook* tool that can be utilized by school boards and advocates to create and customize policies that support active transportation and Safe Routes to School programs.
<http://changelabsolutions.org/safe-routes/welcome>

National Association of State Boards of Education: Working with and through our state associations, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership.
<http://www.nsba.org/#sthash.6bISnQLP.dpuf>

Fit, Healthy, and Ready to Learn: A School Health Policy Guide http://www.nasbe.org/wp-content/uploads/FHRTL_Physical-Activity-NASBE-Nov20121.pdf

National Center for Safe Routes to School: assists states and communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bicycle to school. The organization also provides technical support and resources.

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/about-us>

NJ Safe Routes to School Resource Center: has created model policies to address walking and bicycling to school

<http://www.saferoutesnj.org/resources/tips-tools-and-more/>

NJ Safe Routes to Schools Regional Coordinators: are ready, willing, and able to offer free advice and technical assistance in kicking off Safe Routes to School programs in communities from all twenty-one counties.

www.saferoutesnj.org/about/regional-coordinator-tmas/

Safe Routes to School National Partnership: a fast-growing network of hundreds of organizations, government agencies, and professional groups working to set goals, share best practices, leverage infrastructure and program funding, and advance policy change to help agencies that implement Safe Routes to School programs

[. http://saferoutespartnership.org/resourcecenter](http://saferoutespartnership.org/resourcecenter)

