

Safe Routes to School: Planning for Fall 2020

Now more than ever, we must consider strategies that create safer options for getting children to and from school while also encouraging students to participate in sufficient physical activity for their health. To address these challenges, the Safe Routes to School Partnership convened a Back to School 2020 Working Group to develop guidelines for fall 2020-2021. Below is guidance from the Partnership and other examples for planning, funding, and holding virtual events. Also included are resources for administrators to ensure a safe and physically active school reopening for the upcoming school year.

Safe Routes to School Partnership Guidance

- [Safe Routes to School Partnership – Back to School 2020: Recommendations for Safe Routes to School Programming](#)
The guidelines include advice, tools, and considerations for programming in remote, hybrid, and in-person learning scenarios.
- [Safe Routes to School Partnership – April 2020 Newsletter](#)
The newsletter includes advice on advocating for active transportation, continuing to engage families, financial resources for nonprofits, and other resources.

Examples from School Districts

Planning	Identifying Funding Sources for Programming	Virtual Safe Routes to School Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - La Cross County, Wisconsin – Safe Routes to School Plan 2020 Wisconsin asked for input from the public on their Safe Routes to School draft plan. Their plan acknowledges COVID-19 and mentions how the pandemic has highlighted the value of recreation and exercise. - Michigan – The Safe Routes to School Planning Process at a Distance Michigan released guidelines to help schools virtually plan for Safe Routes to School programs at a distance including recommendations for socially distanced walking audits, virtual kick-off and action meetings, and advice on conducting parent and student surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Massachusetts Department of Transportation and Barr Foundation – Shared Streets and Spaces A technical assistance and funding program providing grants between \$5,000 and \$30,000 to help cities and towns create safe outdoor spaces and help limit the spread of COVID-19. These funds can be used for Safe Routes to School programs. - Salem-Keizer, Oregon – Transportation Improvement Program 2021-2026 \$35 million in funding to support bicycle and pedestrian projects and \$570,000 for three years of Safe Routes to School programming. Read the full report here. - Minnesota – Safe Routes to School Funding Bill Proposed bill authorizes the sale of \$10 million in bonds to fund grants for the Safe Routes to School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michigan – Walk and Wheel Wednesdays Weekly event encouraging families to spend 20 min outside. - Minnesota – Bike Anywhere Day Event includes fun online resources such as bike bingo, crossword puzzle, word search, mileage tracker, and poster contest. - Montgomery County, Maryland – Virtual Safety Week Includes games and activities for students to learn about pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety. - Georgia – Virtual Walk 2020 Allows children to be physically active and take a creative approach to learning about pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety.

Administrators

Resources and compilations to provide school administrators guidance on operations.

Federal

- [CDC – School and Childcare Programs](#)

Guidance to help administrators plan, prepare, and respond to the pandemic. Check out their [Readiness and Planning Tool](#).

State-Specific

- [Johns Hopkins University – eSchool+ Initiative](#)
Analysis of state school reopening plans coded within several categories.

General Guidance

- [American Academy of Pediatrics – COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)
Guidance to support education, public health, local leadership, and pediatricians to create policies for reopening schools that prioritize the health of children, adolescents, staff, and communities.
- [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health’s Healthy Buildings Program – Schools for Health: Risk Reduction Strategies for Reopening Schools](#)
Report for implementing risk reduction strategies and school reopening measures.
- [Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools – Planning for the Next Normal at School: Keeping Students, Staff, and Families Safe and Healthy](#)
Playbook with information on mental health and well-being, COVID-19 prevention, physical activity, and PE, social drivers of health, and teacher and staff well-being.
- [The National Academies Press – Reopening K-12 Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Prioritizing Health, Equity, and Communities](#)
Recommendations from the Committee on Guidance for K-12 Education on Responding to COVID-19 on reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Create a free account to access.

Physical Activity and Physical Education

- [Online Physical Education Network \(OPEN\): 2020-21 Mapping Project](#)
Guidance to help administrators plan for in-person, remote, and hybrid models of learning.
- [Society of Health and Physical Educators \(SHAPE\) America – Guidelines for K-12 Online Physical Education](#)
Ideas and resources on appropriate practices and practical recommendations for online PE, including sample learning activities, assessment strategies, lesson module; online course tools and resources; and tips to assess the quality of online PE courses.
- [American Academy of Pediatrics – COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#)
Guidance to support education, public health, local leadership, and pediatricians to create policies for reopening schools that prioritize the health of children, adolescents, staff, and communities.
- [Active Schools: Physical Education and Physical Activity are an Integral Part of the Education Process During COVID-19](#)
Position statement on the importance of including physical activity and PE in the COVID-19 response.
- [Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools – Planning for the Next Normal at School: Keeping Students, Staff, and Families Safe and Healthy](#)
Playbook with information on mental health and well-being, COVID-19 prevention, physical activity and PE, social drivers of health, and teacher and staff well-being.
- [Safe Routes to School Partnership – Back to School 2020: Recommendations for Safe Routes to School Programing](#)
Advice, tools, and considerations for Safe Routes to School programming for remote, hybrid, and in-person learning scenarios.

Researchers at the Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity compiled resources between 6/15 and 6/24/20.