



Solano Transportation Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jayne Bauer

Marketing & Legislative Program Manager

jbauer@sta-snci.com, 707-424-6075

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

LOCAL SCHOOLS TO JOIN "INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY" OCTOBER 8th

SUISUN CITY, CA - It's not too late for schools to register for the annual International Walk to School Day event Wednesday, October 8th. The sign-up deadline is September 29th. Participating schools will receive incentive items and prizes to celebrate Walk to School Day. The international event began in England in 1994 as a way to urge students to get out of cars and on their feet. Now, it's observed in 40 nations around the world with millions of participants who support walkable communities.

"Getting students back on foot is a major step to improving their health," said Osby Davis, Mayor of Vallejo and Chair of the Solano Transportation Authority Board. "Improved physical fitness is an obvious benefit for students and family members who choose to walk with them. With fewer cars, there is less traffic and improved air quality."

Supportive school staff and parent involvement is crucial. Volunteers are always needed to supervise children walking or bicycling along safe routes in groups. And motorists need to slow down near schools and always be alert.

"Just walking a mile to and from school gives children about two-thirds of their daily recommended physical activity," said Robin Cox, Solano County Health Promotion and Community Wellness Bureau Manager. "Walk to School Day focuses attention on our need for more walkable communities. We're taking action to stop the rising rates of obesity and diabetes in our communities by building walking into students' daily lives."

For additional information about the Safe Routes to Schools program visit: www.solanosr2s.ca.gov. To register a school for International Walk to School Day, contact Tracy Nachand at 707-784-8638 or tnachand@solanocounty.com.

Participating elementary schools to date:

- Benicia: Matthew Turner, Robert Semple
- Dixon: Gretchen Higgins
- Fairfield: Cordelia Hills, Green Valley Middle School, KI Jones, Nelda Mundy, Sheldon
- Rio Vista: DH White
- Suisun City: Crescent, Suisun Elementary
- Vacaville: Ace, Browns Valley, Callison, Cambridge, Cooper, Fairmont, Hemlock, Orchard, Padan
- Vallejo: Dan Mini, Highland, Lincoln, Vallejo Charter, Wardlaw

SOLANO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

A program of the Solano Transportation Authority in partnership with Solano County Public Health, the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program encourages students to walk and bike to school and supports these activities with educational events throughout the year. The program brings together city planners, traffic engineers, police and public health experts to make the routes to our schools safer and less congested.



Solano Safe Routes to School

One Harbor Center, Suite 130
Suisun City CA 94585

Sarah Fitzgerald,
Program Administrator
707-399-3219

solanoSR2Sinfo@sta-snci.com
www.solanosr2s.ca.gov