Safe & Active Schools & Communities:
Increasing Parent Involvement

Funded in part with a major grant from Measure B – your half cent transportation sales tax
Our Program

2007-2009
50 schools

2009 - 2011+
90 schools
Our County

• Population of 1.5 million
• 20% of children living in poverty
• 30% foreign-born
• Ethnically diverse
• Urban and suburban
Our Schools: Challenges & Opportunities

- Diversity of Schools and Settings
- Many public schools are low-income and lack parent leadership infrastructure (no PTAs)
- Over 100 languages spoken at home
- Many older schools in urban settings
Other Challenges

- Family instability, unemployment, immigration status
- Realities of Crime and Gangs
- School instability, high turnover
AB 2147: Equity in SR2S

• AB 2147 (V. Manuel Perez)
  Safe Routes to School construction program.

AB 2147, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Safe Routes to School construction program.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation . . . to establish and administer a "Safe Routes to School" construction program . . . This bill would additionally require, in rating a proposal, the consideration of the proposal's benefit to a disadvantaged community, as defined, and the use of a public participation process, including a public meeting, as specified.
How do you increase parent involvement?

• Build trust and prove yourself

• Consistency and commitment

• Take the time to build relationships

• Old school technology (you have to talk to people!)
Training parents to be leaders

PLAN to Lead Training

Reglas / Ground Rules
- Puntuallity
- Compromiso / Compromise
- Arriesgar / Take Risks
- Derecho a pasar / Right to Pass
- Mantener Estructura / Maintain Structure
- Encontro Respecto / Respect for Meeting
- Confidentiality / Confidencialidad
- Acordar en desacuerdo / Agree to disagree
- Un paso adelante o atrás / Step up or Step down
- Tecnología / Technology

Esteroticpo: Un concepto, idea o imagen que es exagerada en contra o a favor de todos los miembros de un grupo.

Stereotype: an oversimplified and/or exaggerated concept, idea or image against and/or in favor of all members of a certain group.

Objetivos de Aprendizaje / Learning Objectives
- Aprender a escuchar y hablar español
- Learn to listen and speak Spanish
- Entender el significado de Seguridad, seguridad y manejo, para tener un lenguaje claro en el papel
- Understand the meaning of safety, security and management and use a common language with the group
- Identificar dimensiones y aspectos importantes de nuestra identidad / Identify important dimensions and aspects of our own identity
- Identificar y relacionarnos mejor con los otros, para entender la necesidad de FORMER un Comité de Seguridad / Identify and relate to the others in order to understand the need to create a Safety Committee

2009/03/25
• Worked with parents for a full year
• Four 2-hour sessions
• Parents as advocates

Manzanita Safety Committee
• Cultural sensitivity/linguistic relevance
• Identify concerns, fears and barriers
• Find what resonates with parents
• Provide food & childcare
Identify leaders

• Community partners, e.g. churches, neighborhood groups, CBO’s, etc.
• Ask principal, family or parent liaison
• School events, for example family reading nights
Most effective programs

- Walking schoolbus
- Walk audits and bringing safety improvements
- Parent trainings
- Contests and fun activities to engage and reward kids
- Recognize and appreciate volunteers
Successes and high points
Walking School Bus, Global Family School
Walk audit and walking school bus, Acorn Woodland
Safe in My Neighborhood Project, Allendale School
Results

Countywide Mode Changes, Fall v. Spring 2008-09

- Walk: Fall 32, Spring 38
- Bike: Fall 32, Spring 2
- Transit: Fall 4, Spring 2
- Carpool: Fall 5, Spring 5
- School Bus: Fall 6, Spring 8
- Car: Fall 53, Spring 43
- Other: Fall 2, Spring 2

Mode: Walk, Bike, Transit, Carpool, School Bus, Car, Other

Percentage Change: Fall vs. Spring 2008-09
Number reporting awareness of a Safe Routes to Schools program at their school doubled (16% to 32%)

The percentage of parents answering that they plan to allow their children to walk or bike to school in the next six months increased from 8% (Fall) to 12.1% (Spring).

Countywide, the number of students bicycling to school doubled over the course of the year, and the percentages of students traveling in carpools also increased.
Nora Cody, Director
Safe Routes to Schools Alameda County Partnership
(510) 740-3150 ext. 323
nora@transformca.org