Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School: Partners in Safety

Why should Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero programs work together to amplify shared transportation safety goals and strategies?

Safe Routes to Schools focuses on making it safer for more kids to walk and bike to school. Vision Zero works to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries.

What opportunities are there for Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero advocates to collaborate to improve safety and advance equity together?

How can Vision Zero efforts help move Safe Routes to School programs toward a data-driven, community-wide approach that prioritizes areas with the greatest safety needs?

How Communities Are Advancing Safe Routes to School Through Vision Zero

Use data to identify high crash areas
Portland, OR analyzed streets with highest rates of motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle crashes, and overlaid the three lists of streets to develop a map of 30 streets and 30 intersections that make up the High Crash Network.

Offer bicycle and pedestrian safety education to all children
Washington, DC now provides universal bike skills training for all second graders in public school, and indicates they will create a traffic safety curriculum and mandate its teaching in all elementary schools.

Direct funding to schools with the greatest need
Los Angeles, CA is focusing its efforts first on its 50 high-priority schools, pledging to install 180 high-visibility crosswalks at all schools by the end of 2017, complete Safe Routes to School safety plans at each of the 50 schools by 2020, and implement those plans in all of the high-priority schools by 2025.

Reduce speeding around schools
San Francisco and San Jose, CA are partnering to advocate for state legislation that would give them the authority to utilize automated speed enforcement (such as safety cameras).

Engage the community in Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School
Los Angeles, CA is awarding $500,000 in grants to community-based organizations to engage residents and educate them on traffic safety. Funding is prioritized to neighborhoods along high-injury corridors and for engagement that is culturally competent and linguistically appropriate.

For more information on how Safe Routes to School advocates can partner with Vision Zero to improve safety and increase walking and biking in your community, see our report, Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School: Partners in Safety.