



# Continuing Education: Fresh from Florida

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Florida Safe Routes to School Education Program  
Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program

# History of Florida's ped/bike education



## 1977-1979

National Bike Ed Conference

First curriculum model

Montana Bicycle Education curriculum and training program

## 1980s

Montana program expanded to Florida

Program curriculum and training revised and improved

Polk County Bike Ed training program, modeled in other counties

## 1990s

Grant funding for K-2 Ped safety development (Univ. of FL)

FTBSEP Training implementation grant began at UF (ped and bike)

Middle school lessons developed

## 2000s

K-12 curriculum and training designed by the FTBSEP (UF)

Continuously reviewed and updated (updated in 2008 & 2011)

2017: Major revision and update. 2018: FL SRTS covers all 67 counties in Florida for the first time with regional programs.

FTBSEP focused on ped/bike education for all ages

2018: Development of older adult ped and bike safety workshops



# Youth Ped/Bike Education: Florida Safe Routes to School

- ▶ Florida's ped/bike education program has roots that go back nearly 40 years.
- ▶ Youth education was previously administered by the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program (FTBSEP), but, in 2005, federal funding allowed the implementation of a dedicated Safe Routes to School program, which has been funded ever since.
- ▶ Education programs were only funded in small regions around the state where local agencies/organizations applied for funding and were overseen by FDOT District offices.
- ▶ In 2014, the FDOT Safety Office partnered with the University of Florida to oversee and implement the FL SRTS Education Program.
- ▶ While Florida's SRTS program already served as a successful national model, there were many regions (and children) who had never received any SRTS education in Florida.
- ▶ Expanded from 13 counties in 2015 to entire state (67 counties) over three years.
- ▶ Increases reach of the FL SRTS Program
  - ▶ Previously, each regional program taught its own lessons and provided direct education.
  - ▶ Now, regional programs train and support teachers using FL SRTS curricula.
    - ▶ This provides sustainability of program and consistency statewide.



# Florida SRTS Education

- ▶ Since 2014, Florida SRTS Education programs have
  - ▶ Educated 800,000 students in 3,000 schools.
  - ▶ Trained 2,000 schoolteachers.
  - ▶ Provided education and trainings in all of Florida's counties.
  - ▶ Educated 200,000 individuals at community events.
  - ▶ Fit and distributed over 50,000 bicycle helmets.

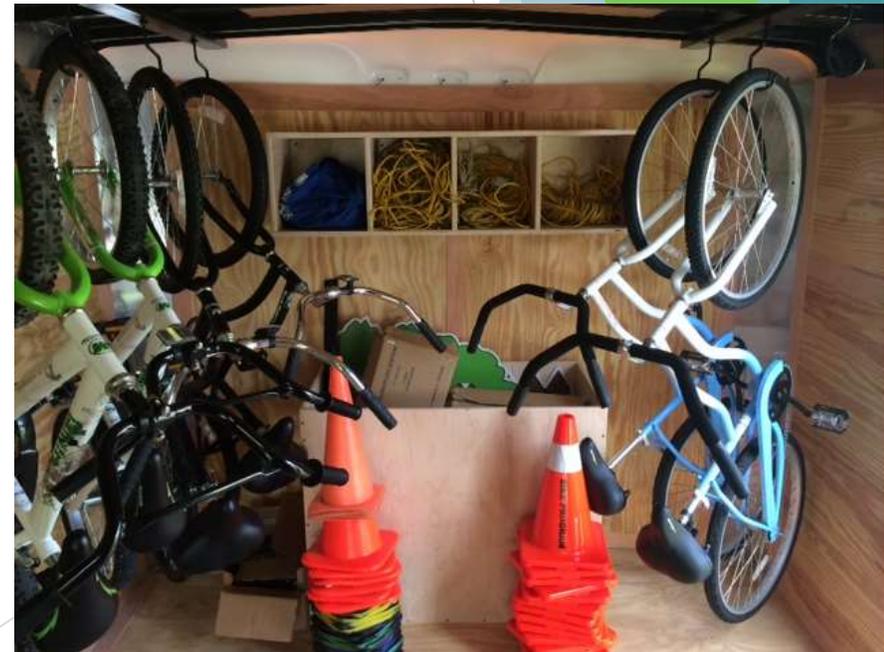




# Training for teachers

- ▶ To maximize the reach of the Florida Safe Routes to School program, a train-the-trainer model is used. While many of our educators can provide direct education to students in school, their reach is limited due to the time it takes to implement pedestrian and bicycle education.
- ▶ Extensive classroom and on-foot/on-bike training
  - ▶ Ped and Bike laws, Hazard Avoidance, Seeing and Being Seen, Helmet fitting and training (certified), Hands-on skills (ped and bike), school bus safety, how to teach and set up, etc.
- ▶ Networking and learning from each other
- ▶ Ability to ask questions about content & implementation
- ▶ More invested in program
- ▶ Regional Trainer/Educator network across the state
  - ▶ Certified by the League of American Bicyclists and mentored by established trainers.



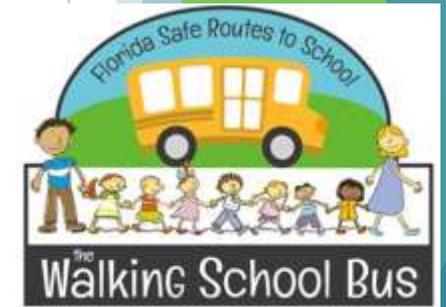
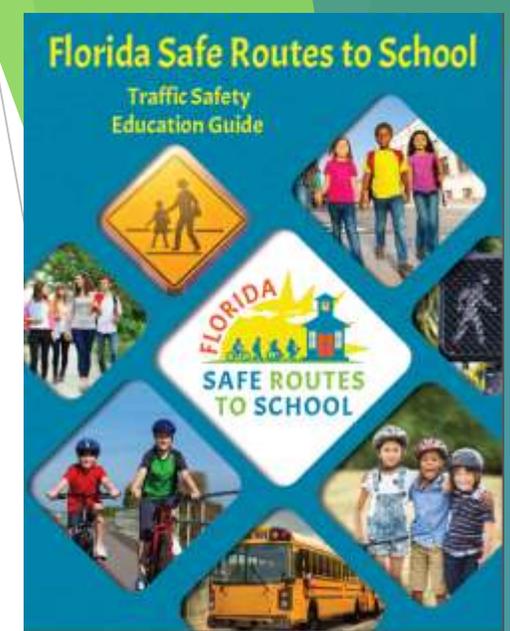


# FL SRTS Bike Trailers



# Curricula and Lessons

- ▶ For over 30 years, Florida has had a nationally recognized curriculum to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- ▶ The curricula and lessons meet the FL Dept. of Education standards, and are widely accepted and used by school districts, teachers, and ped/bike experts across Florida.
- ▶ Curricula and lessons available online for the first time, and allows teachers and others to access the most up-to-date material.
  - ▶ Elementary and Middle Traffic Safety Education Guide
  - ▶ High School program
  - ▶ Supplemental guide for teaching individuals with disabilities
  - ▶ Walking School Bus training workshops





# Florida Traffic & Bicycle Safety Education Program



- ▶ The FTBSEP uses a train-the-trainer model to teach training workshop participants (e.g., law enforcement, fire rescue/EMS, municipal parks and recreation staff, community professionals) how to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety education in their communities.
- ▶ Trainings conducted in the Top 25 High Priority Counties in Florida.





# Safe Walking and Bicycling for Life

**AARP** Real Possibilities in  
**Florida**

*"To live independently and age successfully, older Americans must be able to maintain a mobile lifestyle." - AARP*

- ▶ Florida's aging population
  - ▶ 26% of Floridians are 60+ years old, and in 2030 one in three will be 60+ years old
  - ▶ Many older adults will outlive their ability to safely drive a motor vehicle, so it is important for them to understand what resources are available so they can remain mobile.
  - ▶ In general, older adults are more vulnerable road users due to natural physical and cognitive changes.
- ▶ FDOT offers training workshops for agencies who work with and can train older adults
- ▶ Some topics covered:
  - ▶ Benefits of walking and bicycling for health and as a transportation option
  - ▶ Safe and Unsafe pedestrian and cyclist behaviors
  - ▶ Laws/Rules of the Road for pedestrians and cyclists
  - ▶ Bicycle selection, fit, and inspection
  - ▶ Riding your bicycle in a variety of situations

