

2009 Safe Routes to School Academy Grant Summary

Grant Overview: The Safe Routes to School Academy Grant Program is provided by the Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital (Center) and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The program aims to make it safer for children to walk and bicycle to school and helps to advance the five priorities of the federal Safe Routes to School Program, known as the 5 E's:

- **Education:** Teaching children, adults, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists about traffic laws and safe and courteous behavior on the road, as well as the health, environmental and safety benefits of walking and bicycling.
- **Encouragement:** Planning special events to celebrate active travel and sponsoring fun classroom activities and contests to make walking and bicycling more appealing to students and their families.
- **Enforcement:** Partnering with local law enforcement to promote safety in the vicinity of schools and/or launching community enforcement activities, such as crossing guard programs or student safety patrols.
- **Evaluation:** Keeping track of how well the program is doing through the collection of data before and after program activities.
- **Engineering:** Building sidewalks and bike lanes, installing traffic signals, and other aspects of building a better physical environment for walking and bicycling.

The program offers small grants in the amount of \$5,000 each to schools (public or private), grades K-8, to help improve the safety of walking and bicycling to school specifically through Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement activities (see 5 E's above).

The \$5,000 can be used to support:

- Educational programs, such as:
 - School assemblies on pedestrian and/or bicycle safety.
- Classroom activities, including lessons and presentations.
- Workshops for parents and community members on driver safety.
- Special events and activities that encourage walking and bicycling, and promote pedestrian and driver safety, such as:
 - Participation in 2009 International Walk to School Day.
- Walking school buses (children walk to school, supervised by an adult).
- Drop and walk programs (parents drop off children at a central meeting point, and children walk to school, supervised by an adult).
- Contests that promote walking and bicycling among students.
- Bike rodeos.
- Enforcement of pedestrian and driver safety, such as:
 - Creation of a safety patrol program.
 - Use of crossing guards.
 - Development of parent pick-up and drop-off policies.

- Formation of a neighborhood speed watch program.

In addition to the \$5,000 grant, schools will be eligible to receive a FREE 2-day walkability audit, during which a team of trained experts will observe main walking routes to school and develop a comprehensive plan on how to improve the safety of those routes.

Amount of Award: \$5,000

Due Date/Notification of Award: October 15, 2009. Notification on November 1, 2009.

Alternatives if not Awarded: The project will not take place without the grant funding.

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to apply for a Safe Routes to School Academy Grant for Youngsville Elementary/Middle School, with the intent of reviewing walking/biking routes to the school and determining ways to make them safer for students.