



**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
THROUGH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and future of children in Santa Rosa City Schools is of top concern and a priority in the Healthy Cities Campaign; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the epidemic of growing obesity, over half of adults and a quarter of middle and high school students in the county are overweight or obese, and is committed to support policy, programs, and messaging around preventative measures; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the childhood obesity epidemic is a national health crisis with one in every three children overweight and obese; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the direct link between growing immobility, chronic physical diseases, and chronic mental conditions; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges only about 25% of Sonoma County fifth graders meet all California fitness standards; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the economic costs associated with cardiovascular disease and diabetes in California are estimated at 50.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the direct correlation between physically active students and improved academic performance and attendance; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the unsustainable traffic growth, safety, and air pollution due to rising individual driving trips to and from school, recent reports showing 18% of national city morning traffic is caused by single vehicle transport to school; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges that when students living within one mile of school walk or bike to and from school, they can achieve two thirds of the Surgeon General's recommended sixty minutes of daily exercise; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges a national decrease in the number of students walking and biking to school, decreasing from 48% in 1969 to 13% in 2007. The 35% difference is seen in single vehicle trips to school, busing numbers staying the same; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges Safe Routes to School is an international and national program that has proven to improve safety for walking or bicycling to and from school, increase the number of students walking and biking to and from school, and better access for students walking or bicycling to and from school; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges creating more access to safe routes to and from school results in reduced bicycle and pedestrian related injuries and deaths for students and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges Safe Routes to School initiatives can strengthen a positive connection between schools and neighborhoods by creating beneficial interactions between children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools acknowledges the importance of the Safe Routes to School program and its dedication to removing barriers to walking and bicycling to and from school through improvement of infrastructure and facilities and the creation of education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation programs; and

WHEREAS, Santa Rosa City Schools understands the path to healthy cities requires true collaboration with public health, transportation, and education systems;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Santa Rosa City Schools will prioritize the safety, well-being, and transportation options of school children when approving new development projects and street modification projects, incorporating Safe Routes to School practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Santa Rosa City Schools will participate with local school districts to apply for Safe Routes to School funding, prioritizing underserved schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Santa Rosa City Schools will partner with local school district/s to do a simple, low-cost assessment of travel mode share to schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, Santa Rosa City Schools will lead by example, support, and participate in walk and bike to school day; and be it further

RESOLVED, Santa Rosa City Schools will continue to collaborate with public health, transportation, and education professionals to address the pressing challenges stated above, and invest in the future of students' well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, Santa Rosa City Schools will gain the benefits mentioned above and improve the quality of life and safety of students and all community members by supporting the following Safe Routes to School practices

- Encourage families, students, and school staff to be more physically active by walking and bicycling more often.
- Make streets, sidewalks, pathways, trails, and crosswalks safe, convenient, and attractive for walking and bicycling to school.
- Ensure that streets around schools have an adequate number of safe places to cross and that there is safe and convenient access into the school building from adjacent sidewalks.
- Keep driving speeds slow near schools, on school routes, and at school crossings.
- Enforce all traffic laws near schools, on school routes, and in other areas of high pedestrian and bicycle activity.
- Locate schools within walking and bicycling distance of as many students as possible.
- Reduce the amount of traffic around schools.

- Use trails, pathways, and non-motorized corridors as travel routes to schools.
- Provide secure bicycle parking at schools.
- Teach traffic safety skills routinely in school.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of January, 2020, by the Board of Education of the Santa Rosa City Schools.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Clerk of the Board