

Establishing School Policy

The best way to ensure sustainability for your program is to establish school policy that specifically promotes walking, biking, bus and carpool, encourages support for your SchoolPool program, and supports other Safe Routes to Schools initiatives such as education, contests, and events. Mill Valley has developed policies that institutionalize Safe Routes to Schools.

Mill Valley School District

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Administrative Regulation

Mill Valley School District support for walking, biking and carpooling to Mill Valley Schools.

AR 5142.2

Students

The Mill Valley School District recognizes that walking and bicycling to school promote students' physical activity and reduce vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. The District also recognizes that for students who do not live close enough to school, carpooling reduces traffic in the vicinity of the school and creates a safer environment for those who walk or bicycle. Therefore,

- The District encourages all students to walk or bike or to carpool to school.
- In order to reduce congestion and ensure that more children have the option to walk or bike to school, the District will assign students to the closest school to their home, whenever possible, and in accordance with the District's student placement procedures.

Mill Valley School District support for safety education at school

The District wants to ensure that students have a safer trip to and from school. Students benefit from bicycle and pedestrian safety education to help make the trip safer and instill confidence in students, parents, and community members. Therefore,

- The District will encourage bicycle and pedestrian safety education be provided that is structured for the appropriate grade and age levels, such as that provided by the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Safe Routes to Schools program.

Mill Valley School District participates in Mill Valley Safe Routes to School Task Force and Encourages Schools to Participate

The District supports the community-based task force organized by TAM Safe Routes to Schools. The SR2S TF collaborates with the school district, the city and county and volunteers from the schools to discuss and plan for measures to improve the safety of children and encourage walking and biking to school.

**Mill Valley School District. Safe Routes to School
(SRTS) Administrative Regulation (cont.)**

- The District will participate in the community-based task force, organized by Safe Routes to School;
- The District urges each school site to identify a team leader or liaison to attend the Task Force meetings and to coordinate each school's Safe Routes Committee which oversees and coordinates school activities, participates in SR2S programs, promotes walking, biking and carpooling to school; and identifies strategies to improve student safety along routes to school.

**Mill Valley School District supports the annual fall and spring evaluation
of participation in the SR2S program**

- The District requests that each school participate in the fall and spring student tally surveys which will help evaluate the progress being made by measuring the number of children walking, bicycling and carpooling. SR2S provides data analysis and report preparation of student tallies. Caltrans requires the use of these evaluation forms by grant recipients.

Mill Valley School District encourages safety and responsibility

- The District regards the riding of bicycles to and from school by students and others as an assumption of responsibility by students, parents/guardians, and others. This responsibility extends to the care of property, in the observation of safety rules, and in the display of courtesy and consideration towards others. The District assumes no liability for injuries or damage occurring outside school property.
- The District strongly recommends that students and their parents/guardians follow recommended bicycling safety guidelines and always use their common sense and good judgment. School employees and parents/guardians are role models for all children, and older children should be models for younger children. Role models have a responsibility to follow the laws and rules for safe walking, bicycling and driving to ensure the safety of all road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists).

First reading: December 14, 2011.

Mill Valley School District

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Board Policy

Mill Valley School District support for walking, biking and carpooling to Mill Valley Schools.

BP 5142.2

Students

The Governing Board recognizes that walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transport to school promote students' physical activity and reduce vehicle traffic and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

As part of the district's coordinated approach to supporting student wellness and safety and enhancing student learning, the Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement strategies to establish and promote Safe Routes to School program activities.

(cf. 0450- Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3510- Green School Operations)

(cf. 3514- Environmental Safety)

(cf. 5030- Student Wellness) (cf. 5142- Safety)

The Superintendent or designee may identify a program coordinator or establish district and/or school site committees to oversee and coordinate related activities.

The Superintendent or designee may collaborate with local public works and public safety departments, transportation agencies, other city and county agencies, school staff, students, parents/guardians and parent organizations, health organizations, community organizations, and/or businesses in the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies.

(cf. 1020- Youth Services)

(cf. 1220- Citizen Advisory Committees)

(cf. 1230- School-Connected Organizations)

(cf. 1400- Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

(cf. 1700- Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 6020- Parent Involvement)

**Mill Valley School District. Safe Routes to School
(SRTS) Board Policy (cont.)**

Strategies shall be based on the grade levels of the students and an assessment of the conditions and needs of each school and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Superintendent or designee shall explore the availability of grant funds and other sources of funding to support related projects and activities. The Transportation Authority of Marin provides the Safe Routes to School programs at no charge.

(cf. 1260- Educational Foundation) (cf. 3100- Budget)

(cf. 3290- Gifts, Grants and Bequests) (cf. 7110- Facilities Master Plan)

To assist with program evaluation, the Safe Routes to School program has developed a standardized survey of parents/guardians' attitudes about allowing their child to walk or bicycle to school as well as student tally forms for recording the modes of travel that students use. NCSRTS recommends that a district use these forms both before and after implementation of a project in order to evaluate changes in attitudes and behaviors. NCSRTS also provides data analysis and report preparation of parent surveys and student tallies. Caltrans requires the use of these evaluation forms by grant recipients.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board on the implementation of program activities and progress toward program goals. Such reports may include, but not be limited to, levels of participation in promotional and educational activities, survey results of parent/guardian attitudes about allowing their child to walk or bicycle to school, tallies of the numbers of students using various modes of travel to and from school and how these numbers have changed over time, records of student attendance and on-time arrival, and injury data within the school and/or district attendance boundaries.

(cf. 0500- Accountability) Legal Reference: EDUCATION CODE

32283 Comprehensive safety plan

45450-45451 Crossing guards

GOVERNMENT CODE

65352.2 General planning; communication between cities, counties and school districts

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE

2333.5 Safe routes to schools construction program

VEHICLE CODE

21200-21212 Operation of bicycles, especially:

21212 Helmet required for bicycle, nonmotorized scooter, skateboard, skates

21949-21971 Pedestrian rights and duties

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 23

148 Highway safety improvement program

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

1751 Note Local wellness policy

First reading: December 14, 2011.