



QuickStart Mini-grants

Examples of eligible activities

What types of activities are eligible?

The Virginia Safe Routes to School Program wants to see mini-grant application proposals that fit a school's identified needs and interests. [Click here](#) for the application.

A number of general categories and sample activities are listed below. These categories and ideas are only examples intended to start the process. We strongly encourage additional ideas, needs, or interests. You should also talk with students, teachers and parents about what you would like to accomplish with the grant. When thinking about what to propose, it may be helpful to answer the following question:

At this school, we want to...

Increase the number of students walking and bicycling to school. \$1,000 could help to:

- Put on a National Bike to School Day event, for example by purchasing incentive items for Bike to School Day participants and volunteers.
- Engage students with disabilities by identifying and taking steps to resolve safe walking/bicycling accessibility issues.
- Start a walking school bus, bicycle train, and/or a "Walking Buddies" program.
- Use student-generated ideas about safe walking/bicycling to produce a student-led school assembly, skit, or video.
- Purchase a bike rack.
- **[Insert your great idea here]**



Improve safety. \$1,000 could help to:

- Start a safety patrol or club.
- Work to increase safe driving in school zones and neighborhoods by reducing speeding, cell phone usage, texting, etc.
- Provide age-appropriate walking/bicycling safety education, which may include hands-on and/or classroom activities.
- Work to address student and parental concerns about traffic safety or personal security.
- **[Insert your great idea here]**

Explore environmental concerns. \$1,000 could help to:

- Connect the choice to walk/bicycle with helping the environment in general.
- Explore the connection between active transportation and air quality.
 - Some example activities include implementing car-free Wednesdays, starting a “No Idling” campaign, demonstrating the difference between air quality emissions in the drop-off line versus a non-motor vehicle area, etc.
- Plan an “Earth Day” themed walking or biking to school event.
- **[Insert your great idea here]**

Contribute to an overall positive learning environment. \$1,000 could help to:

- Contribute to students’ readiness to learn by tracking rates of absenteeism, tardiness, and/or in-school behavior in conjunction with active transportation to school.
 - Some example activities include tracking absenteeism/tardiness on walk-to-school days versus regular school days; working with students to connect in-school behavior and/or grades with opportunity to participate in after-school walking/bicycling club, ability to earn helmet/bicycle parts/bicycle, etc.
- Collaborate with teachers to integrate walking and bicycling into the general curriculum (math, social studies, English, science, etc.).
- **[Insert your great idea here]**



Participate in civic discussion: \$1,000 could help to:

- Develop and/or promote school or district policies which are supportive of safe walking and bicycling to school.
- Interact with local officials via presentations, letters, videos, etc.
- **[Insert your great idea here]**

In any of the above categories, using students' service-learning projects or community service requirements can be additional ways to engage students in safe walking/bicycling activities while benefitting the broader school community.