



Enforcement:
**Partner with local law to
address traffic and crime
issues.**

National Safe Routes to School Program Promotes Role for Law Enforcement

<http://apps.saferoutesinfo.org/lawenforcement/>

Developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Center for Safe Routes to School



This website resource outlines ways to get involved as:

- Law Enforcement Executives
- School Resource Officers
- Patrol/Traffic Safety Officers
- Bike Officers
- Community Policing Officers
- Training Officers

The Community Enforcement Approach

http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/enforcement/the_community_enforcement_approach.cfm

Prepared by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC)

The Community Enforcement Approach

Representatives of communities and schools can improve safety behaviors in many ways. Older students can become safety patrol members and help during drop-off and pick-up times at the schools. Adults can volunteer to become crossing guards to enforce safe behaviors at crossings. Neighborhood speed watch programs can provide opportunities for residents to educate drivers about their driving speeds while making drivers aware that the neighborhood is concerned about safety. All adults in a community need to set good examples for their children and others by crossing streets in crosswalks when they are available and following other traffic rules.

Community enforcement approaches include:

- [Safety Patrols](#)
- [Adult School Crossing Guards](#)
- [Neighborhood Speed Watch Programs](#)



This resource includes:

- Involving school and community members, such as kids serving as safety patrol members during drop-off/pick-up at schools
- Adult school crossing guards
- Neighborhood speed watch programs, which can provide opportunities to educate drivers about their driving speeds.

The Law Enforcement Approach

- Overview:
http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/enforcement/the_la_w_enforcement_approach.cfm
- Role of the Enforcement Officer:
http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/enforcement/role_of_the_enforcement_officer.cfm
- Law Enforcement Methods:
http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/enforcement/law_enforcement_methods.cfm

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The Law Enforcement Approach

The previous sections summarized ways that the school and neighborhood can work together to improve safety behaviors. This section looks specifically at what only the law enforcement officer can do.

Law enforcement includes a variety of methods that use both technology and personnel to raise awareness and educate motorists about their driving behaviors and how they relate to the safety rules. An effective law enforcement program is more about providing visible police presence for improved behavior than writing a lot of tickets. The intent of enforcement is to get people to change dangerous behaviors that could cause a crash and subsequent injury or fatality. However, for some dangerous behaviors, enforcement activities need to be implemented early. For example, giving citations for exceeding the speed limit, even by 5 to 10 mph, is especially important in school zones since driving speed increases the likelihood of being severely injured or killed if struck by a vehicle (UK Department of Transportation, 1987).

Effective SRTS Law Enforcement has Three Basic Steps

1. Involve parents and the community.

Generally, most of the traffic around schools is made up of neighborhood residents, parents of students, and the school's faculty and staff. An effective program will seek to notify all groups that a strong traffic law enforcement program is beginning.

2. Use public awareness and education first.

Public awareness and education needs to occur before law enforcement activities. The awareness and education messages should inform people of the problem and why enforcement action is needed. This will generate public support and help to offset any complaints from those who are caught breaking the law. The public next needs to be told what the enforcement activities will



The Law Enforcement Approach includes:

- Traffic Enforcement Specialists in traffic hot-spots
- Communication Action Officers (CAOs)/Precinct Officers focused on specific areas
- School Resource Officers (SROs) law.

The Law Enforcement Methods include:

- Speed Trailers
- Active Speed Monitors
- Traffic Complaint Hotlines
- Photo Enforcement
- 'Pedestrian Decoy' operations
- Progressive Ticketing
- Speed Enforcement in School Zones