

# Safe Routes to Schools Update & E-Bike Information for Schools & Districts



# Safe Routes to School Goals

- ✓ More students/families walk, bike, scoot, skate, bus or carpool for transportation
- ✓ Kids/Families know how to be safe while doing so
- ✓ Barriers to active transportation identified and engineering improvements made
- ✓ Community is more connected and aware of the benefits of SRTS to health and environment





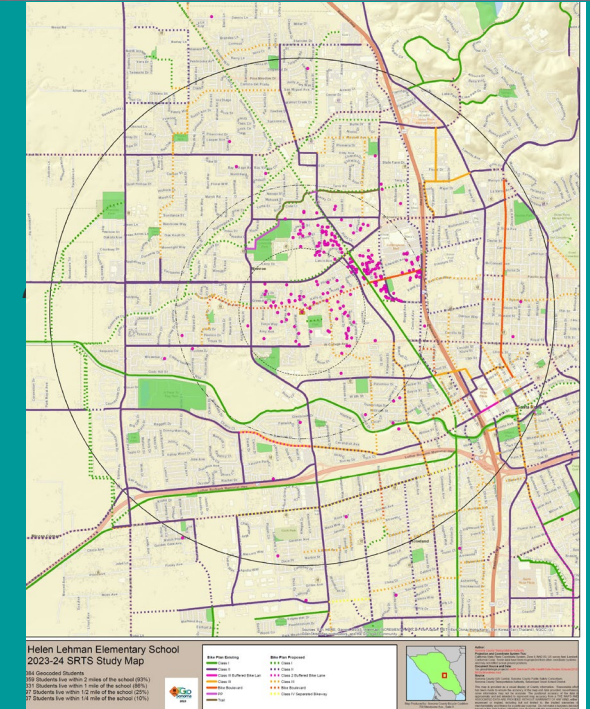
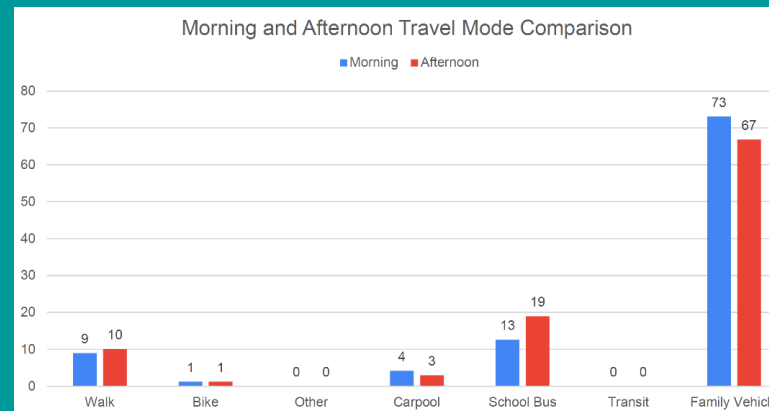
# Comprehensive Safe Routes to School Services

Funder: Sonoma  
County Transportation  
Authority

Partners: Schools,  
Districts, local  
jurisdictions



- ✓ Education
- ✓ Active & Alternative Transportation Encouragement
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Evaluation – tallies, GIS mapping





# Safe Routes to School Education Program

- ✓ 8500+ students annually
- ✓ 50+ schools  
(26 in Santa Rosa in 24-25)
- ✓ Classroom presentations, on-bike courses, community education & outreach



Lead Instructors are *League of American Bicyclist Certified* – the gold standard of cycling education





# Safe Routes to School Education Program



## DAYLIGHTING LAW

When vehicles park right next to an intersection or crosswalk, it makes it hard for drivers to see pedestrians entering the crosswalk. Children, strollers, and people using wheelchairs or walkers are particularly vulnerable because they're more likely to be invisible behind a parked car or truck. And with the increase in size and height of many trucks and SUVs, even adults are vulnerable to collisions at low-visibility intersections.

**WHAT** The Daylighting Saves Lives Bill (AB 413) became law in 2025, and prohibits parking near marked or unmarked\* crosswalks or any intersection to **improve visibility**

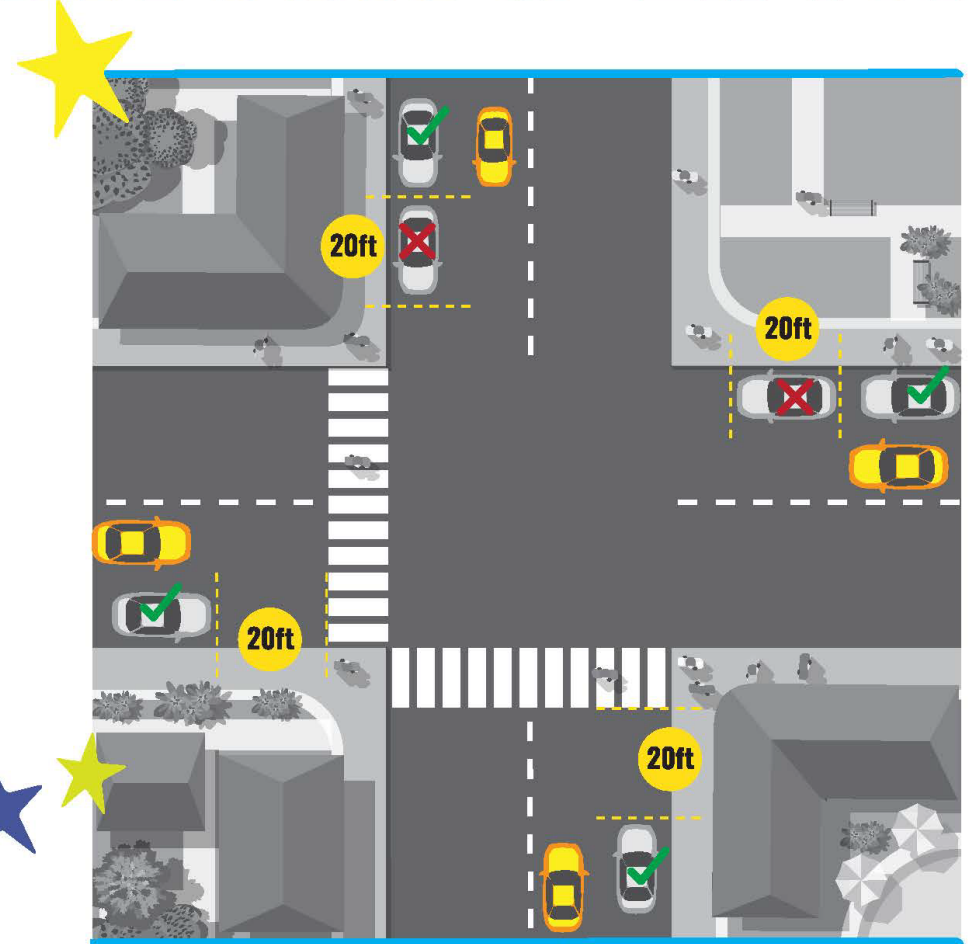
**WHERE** No parking is allowed within **20 feet** of a crosswalk on the approach side (15 feet with curb extensions), regardless of whether the curb is painted red.

Law enforcement agencies may issue parking citations to vehicles in violation of this law.

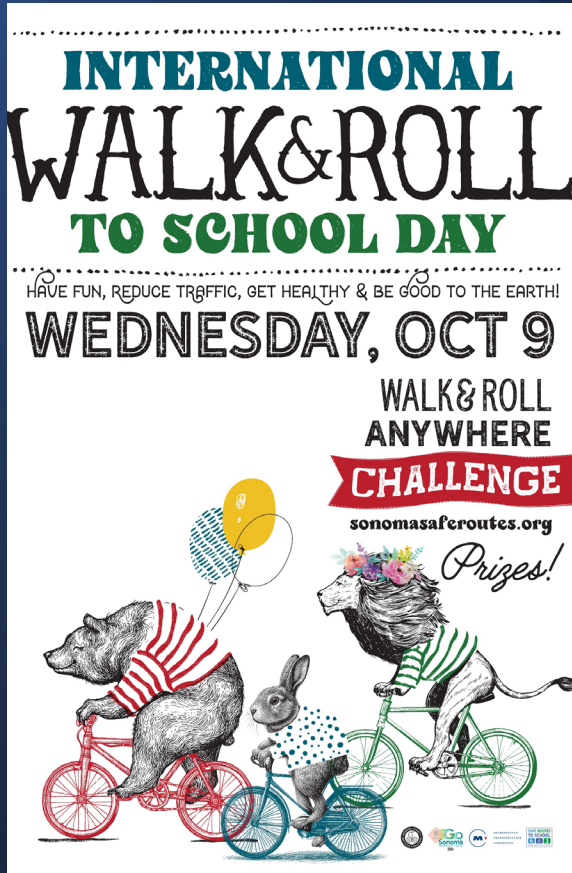
\*An unmarked crosswalk is the portion of a street that is in between sidewalks at an intersection. Specifically, the unmarked crosswalk is the alignment that a sidewalk would follow if it continued across the street.



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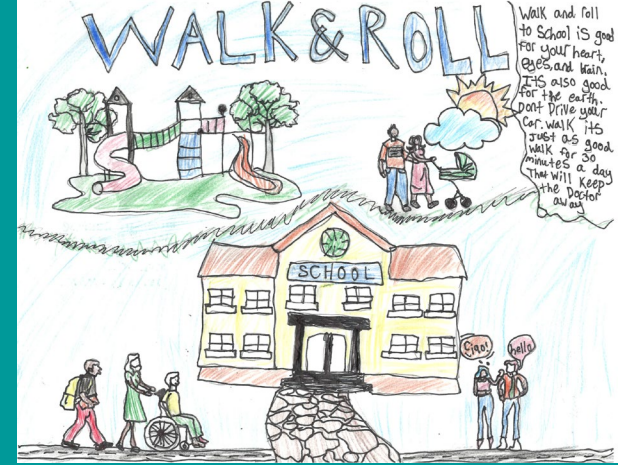


# Safe Routes to School Encouragement Programming



## ✓ Walk/Roll Events & Challenges (25-26)

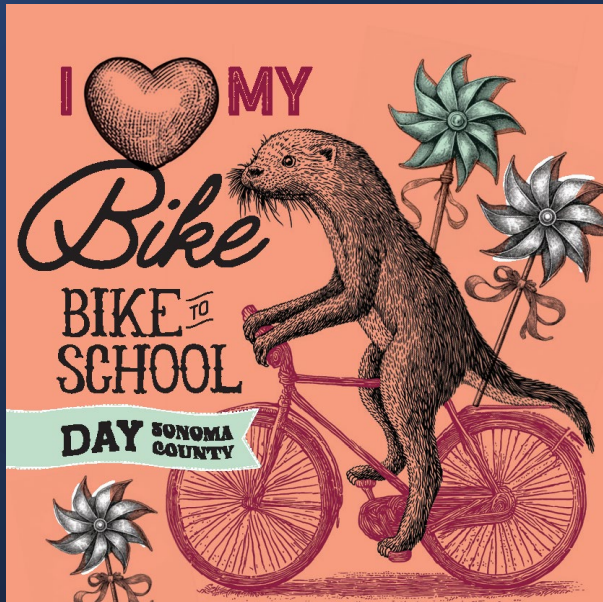
- ✓ Buddy Meet Up Challenge (Sept)
- ✓ International Walk & Roll to School Day (Oct) – Safety Challenge
- ✓ Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (Nov) – Letter Writing Challenge
- ✓ Walk & Roll for our HeARTS: Annual Art Contest (Feb)
- ✓ Spring “Go Green” Challenge (March/April)
- ✓ Bike to School Day (May)





# Bike to School Day

## May 7, 2025



School	# Bikes/% increase		# Bikes/% increase
Austin Creek	20 / 150%	Roseland Elem	17 / 325%
Binkley	18 / 125%	SR Charter Arts	16 / 60%
Cesar Chavez Language	25 / 525%	SR French Charter	47 / 488%
Helen Lehman	5 / 25%	Sequoia	85 / 113%
Hidden Valley	15 / 400%	Sheppard	17 / 70%
JX Wilson	8 / 60%	Spring Lake Middle	23 / 91%
Lincoln	5 / 25%	Strawberry	27 / 80%
Madrone	25 / 67%	Village Elem	34 / 325%
Manzanita	36 / 350%	Mark West Elem	13 / 63%
Monroe	17 / 467%	Mark West Charter	12 / 71%
Proctor Terrace	23 / 283%	Summerfield Waldorf	10 / 100%
RL Stevens	7 / 40%	Whited	TBA

**505 Students biked to school on Bike to School Day in Santa Rosa. On average, 153% more than on a normal school day! (countywide – 200%!)**

# Walking School Buses and Bike Trains and/or park & walk “meet-up spots”

- 15 Santa Rosa schools have active Walking School Buses or Bike Trains established (some with multiple routes)!
- An amazing way to build community and engage more families in walking and rolling.

## Color-coded, kid-powered, carbon-light: Santa Rosa students roll out creative commute for Bike to School Day

*Students at Santa Rosa’s French American Charter School led a colorful, student-organized bike train to campus ahead of Sonoma County’s Bike to School Day celebration.*



**Student Centered 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Project for Earth Month & Bike Month**



# Safe Routes to School Engineering

## Partners:

City of Santa Rosa Public  
Works & Planning  
Department

Santa Rosa Police  
Department

## Santa Rosa School Site Assessments (AKA “Walk Audits”)

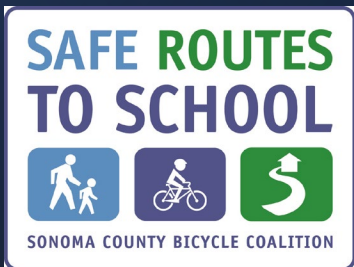
- ✓ Sequoia Elem – 9/11/23
- ✓ Wright Charter – 11/8/23
- ✓ Austin Creek Elem – 12/4/23
- ✓ Lincoln Elem – 1/10/24
- ✓ Brook Hill Elem – 2/23/24
- ✓ JX Wilson Elem – 2/25/24
- ✓ Helen Lehman Elem – 3/11/24
- ✓ Kawana Springs Elem – 4/2/24
- ✓ Steele Lane Elem – 4/23/24
- ✓ Monroe Elem – 5/7/24
- ✓ Comstock Middle – 8/27/24
- ✓ Slater Middle – 9/18/24
- ✓ Taylor Mountain Elem – 10/16/24
- ✓ RL Stevens Elem – 11/19/24
- ✓ Montgomery HS – 12/10/24
- ✓ Burbank Elem – 1/21/25
- ✓ Cesar Chavez – 2/18/25
- ✓ Roseland Elem – 3/26/25
- ✓ Meadow View Elem – 5/13/25
- ✓ Sheppard Elem – 4/8/25

**Will continue in 2025-26: Order of sites TBD, may shift from original list**

# E-Bicycle Education

“

***As cycling advocates, we  
are committed to prioritizing  
the safety of children.***





# Why e-bike awareness and education is necessary

E-bike education must address the increased speeds and maneuverability challenges of a heavier device



# Why e-bike education is necessary

Greater the speed the greater the risk of severe injury.



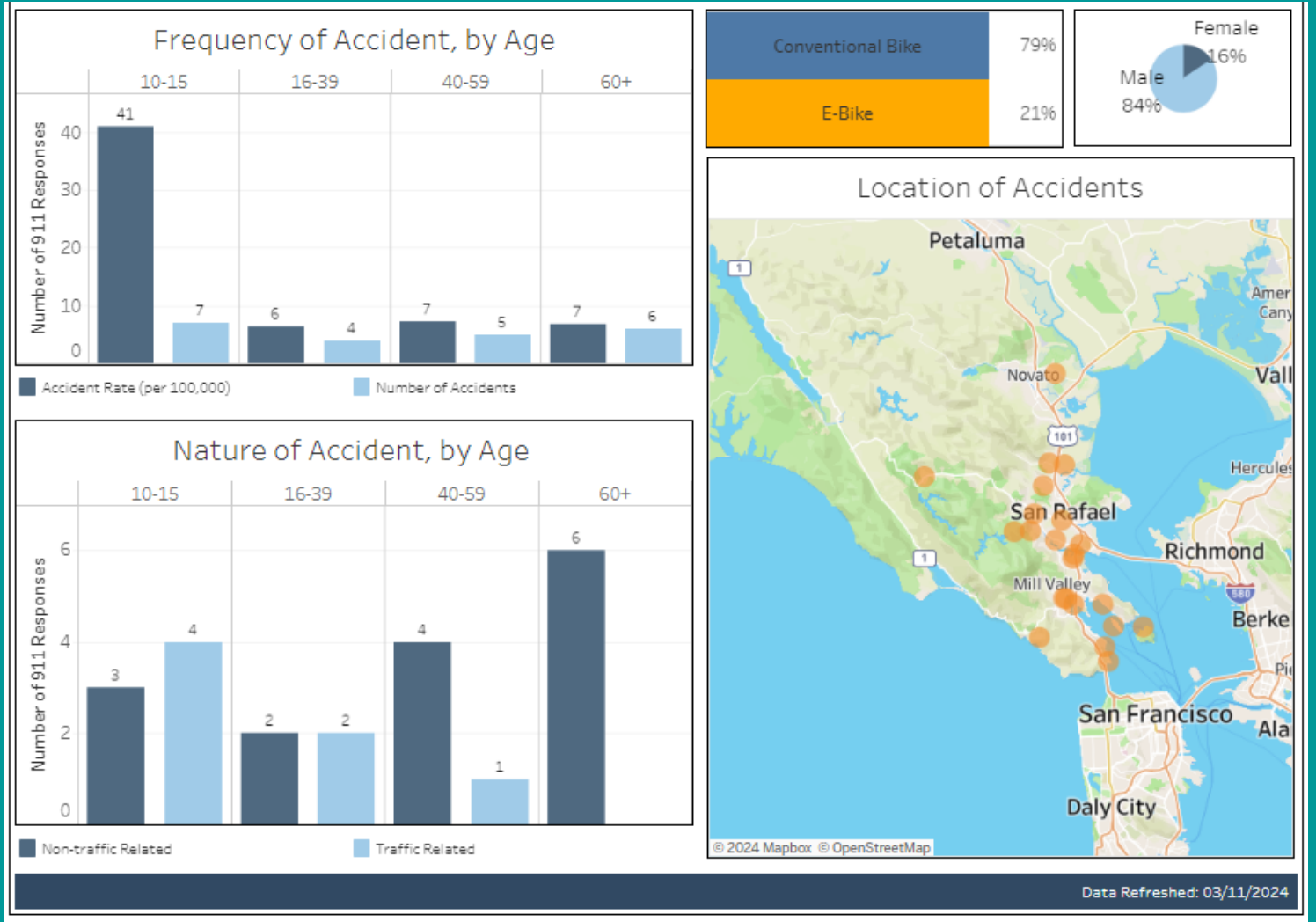
***ER doctors are seeing severe head trauma and pelvic injuries similar to motorcycle crashes***





# Why e-bike education is necessary

## E-Bike Crashes



**SAFE ROUTES  
TO SCHOOL**



SONOMA COUNTY BICYCLE COALITION

# California and federal laws for e-bikes

## CLASSES *of* E-BIKES

Class	Top Assisted Speed	Motor Control
Class 1	20 mph	Pedal only
Class 2	20 mph	Pedal & Throttle
Class 3	28 mph	Pedal only

According to California Law, legal e-bikes must have:

- ✓ Working pedals
- ✓ Max of 750 Watts
- ✓ Throttle that can never, ever be altered or switched to exceed a max speed of 20mph on motor power alone
- ✓ A label on the e-bike designating class





# California and federal laws for e-bikes

*Introducing Motor Vehicles  
that look like e-bikes,  
but they are not!*

“Any device that can exceed 20 mph on motor power alone is not an “electric bicycle – it’s a motorcycle.” *Attorney for People for Bikes (NHTSA)*



*Motorcycle laws apply*



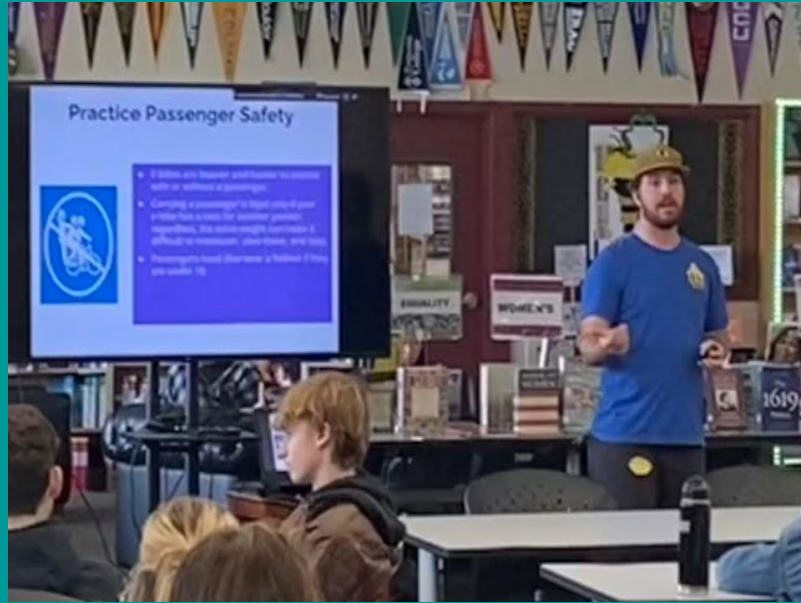
# Buyer Beware

- Class 2 E-Bicycles are readily available (often online) at a lower price point than Class 1 and 3
- They can currently be easily hacked to speeds exceeding 20 mph on throttle power alone, making them illegal to ride on public roads and paths, and even more dangerous
- Advise parents: if purchasing a Class 2 e-bicycle for your teen, consider disabling throttle and/or establishing rules about not adjusting throttle speed under any circumstance
- Consider buying local to guarantee proper assembly and for ongoing maintenance





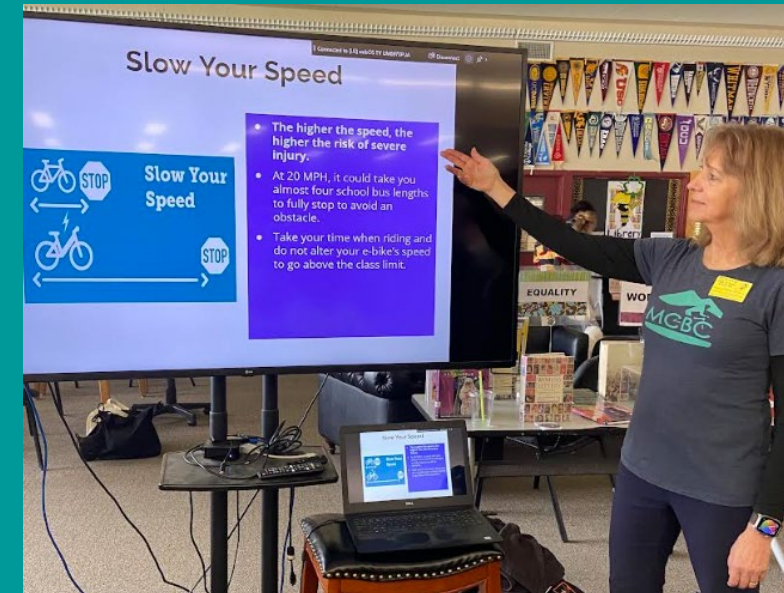
# Be Aware...



*Middle School students “bragged” they could switch into speeds greater than 20 mph*

*Average speed of “conventional” bike ridden by a 14 year old is 9.7 mph)*

*E-bikes travel twice the speed!*



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**Although there are no age restrictions for class 1 and 2 electric bicycles that operate up to 20 mph, the Consumer Products Safety Commission recommends that between ages 9-12, children should not operate any product that travels faster than 10 mph.**

*California Highway Patrol – on-line education (August, 2023)*  
*Parents are legally and financially responsible for their children until 18 years of age.*

“





# What Can Schools, Districts & city partners do?

*Share our  
Flyer  
(Page 1)*

## E-BICYCLES WHAT PARENTS MUST KNOW



### CONSIDERING *an E-BIKE* for YOUR CHILD/TEEN? THINK ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS/FACTORS WHEN PLANNING *a PURCHASE*.

- Does the device fit my child/teen's size and ability?
- Is your child/teen a skilled rider who knows and follows the traffic rules (see sidebar at right)?
- Can your child/teen stand up to peer pressure?
- Is your child/teen committed to wearing a helmet and ensuring their passenger does as well (17 and under are required to do so by law)?
- Buy local so they're guaranteed to be assembled properly and can be taken in for regular maintenance, especially for brakes.
- Check the label (must not exceed 750 watts/20mph).

**PRACTICE FIRST:** Ride with your child/teen to ensure they are following the rules of the road and can handle the bicycle in various road conditions. They should be riding confidently, responsibly and under control at all times, including switching between gears and speed settings.



#### TRAFFIC RULES

- ✓ Rides predictably WITH the flow of traffic
- ✓ Rides outside the door zone of parked vehicles (3 ft away)
- ✓ Stops at stop signs and takes turns with vehicles
- ✓ Uses hand signals for turning and scans before merging onto roads and changing lanes
- ✓ Obeys posted speedways on pathways and yields to pedestrians

#### PROS

- ✓ Allows riders to travel further and faster
- ✓ Allows steep hills to be easily climbed
- ✓ Heavy school books and/or sports equipment may be easier to transport
- ✓ May encourage more independent riding, less vehicles on the road benefits all

#### CONS

- ✓ Traveling at higher speeds (20mph is twice the speed of a normal pedal bike) makes it harder to control and stop
- ✓ Weigh more than normal bikes. Less maneuverable and difficult to transport/store
- ✓ Maintenance can be challenging & costs higher due to electrical components, battery (\$100-\$300/annually vs. \$0-\$100 for a normal pedal bike)
- ✓ Less cardiovascular benefit than regular bikes
- ✓ More expensive to purchase compared to pedal bikes
- ✓ Target for thieves
- ✓ Environmental considerations related to battery production and disposal



(Page 2)

Spanish  
version also  
available

# E-BICYCLES WHAT PARENTS MUST KNOW

## CLASSES of E-BIKES

Class	Top Assisted Speed	Motor Control
Class 1	20 mph	Pedal only
Class 2	20 mph	Pedal & Throttle
Class 3	28 mph	Pedal only

**BUYER BEWARE:** Although Class 2 Bicycles have become readily available at a lower price point than Class 1 & Class 3 bikes, they can be easily hacked to speeds exceeding 20mph on throttle power alone, making them illegal to ride on public roads and pathways, and even more dangerous.

According to California Law, legal e-bikes must have:

- Working pedals
- Max of 750 watts
- Throttle that can never, ever be altered or switched to exceed a max speed of 20mph on motor power alone
- A label on the e-bike designating the class

**If purchasing a Class 2 e-bicycle for your child/teen, consider disabling the throttle and/or establishing rules about not adjusting the throttle speed under any circumstance.**



## E-SCOOTER LAWS

- To legally operate an e-scooter in CA, one **must be over the age of 16 with a learner's permit, or a driver's license**
- California law prohibits riding e-scooters on sidewalks and pathways unless marked otherwise
- Riders must share the road with vehicles; may ride in bicycle lanes

**Have questions or need e-bicycle safety training support?** Contact the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition/Safe Routes to School Program at [saferoutes@bikesonoma.org](mailto:saferoutes@bikesonoma.org) or 707-545-0153. [www.sonomasaferroutes.org](http://www.sonomasaferroutes.org)



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## RESOURCES



**Sonoma County SRTS E-Bike FAQ** includes information for parents, students, and school administrators



**12 Minute E-Bike Safety Video from Pedal Ahead** An easy to follow introductory video all about e-bike safety, including including maintenance needs for batteries & brakes



**E-Bike Safety Training by CHP** 1 hour, comprehensive training, highly recommend youth complete this training with an adult



**The Caring Parent's E-Bike Survival Guide by Beth Black** (available for purchase)



# What Can Schools/Districts & city partners do?

## *Share Resources*



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includes information for parents, students,  
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# What Can Schools/Districts & city partners do?

## *Develop Policies & Educate*



- ✓ Site or District letter to Middle/High School students/parents re: E-bicycles (*template available on SRTS website*)
- ✓ E-Bicycle Parking Registration Policy (*template available on SRTS website*)
- ✓ Letter from Local Law Enforcement to parents, describing illegal devices (*template available on SRTS website*)
- ✓ Implement the SRTS “Drive Your Bike” online modules in all middle school PE classrooms (E-Bicycle module coming soon!)
- ✓ Request an E-Bike education session for groups of parents and/or teens who are riding E-bikes to school