

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

My children and my students go to a school that has had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Safe Routes to School program. This program has worked with our school teachers, parents and students to create a safe walking club of students that walk together to school. The students enjoy walking/talking with friends and teachers, while they get exercise. They also help the environment by reducing the amount of cars on the road. Students sometimes got reflective keychains, vests and bright hats that they liked to wear all the time. They also got books and learned road rules from the safe routes program leader. All of this increased their safety around town even when not walking to school.

In addition to that, Safe Routes worked with our school to get funds to put in new sidewalks and fix sidewalks so that more students could walk to school and get there safely.

They also created a "traffic playground" near our school playground. They came and taught lessons for how students could use crosswalks and follow directions. The students like playing on this painted play road while learning how to be safe.

Please fully fund safety programs like Safe Routes so we can keep on encouraging students and their families to get to school safely, get exercise, improve the environment, and create a neighborhood where everyone can get where they need to go.

Please keep on ensuring money for maintaining our streets for safe driving, and upgrading our sidewalks/ crosswalks so that everyone can get healthy access to walking and biking around our wonderful city and beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Miranda Kessler