What is the SRTS Parent Survey?
Richfield Public Schools is unique because it has an active and exciting Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program led by a dedicated SRTS Coordinator. In short, the program works to make it easier and safer for our students to walk and ride their bike to school. The SRTS Parent Survey is a tool used across the country to learn about a community’s perceptions of walking and bicycling as it relates to their school-aged children.

How was the survey conducted?
The SRTS Parent Survey was distributed to families of Richfield Public Schools in February 2023 digital communications platforms. It was administered in both English and Spanish. The district received 314 responses. Broadly, there were proportionate response rates compared to our district enrolled population. These metrics include categories like at-home language, grade level, student gender and racial identity, and parent education level.

How do we use survey data?
We take the responses provided by our caregivers seriously. First and foremost, results from the survey informs and guides the SRTS Coordinator’s work plan. The data is also analyzed and discussed by the district’s SRTS Committee, which includes school district employees and staff of local government departments. This collaboration has led to community improvements outside the school district, including new crosswalks and fun programming at Richfield parks. All data is split into school-specific reports and shared with building principals. Finally, anonymized data is shared with state and federal SRTS agencies to track national trends.
What did we learn from the SRTS Parent Survey?
In short, a lot! The richest information comes from the open-ended question at the end. (We won’t share those responses here to protect respondents’ privacy.) The next most helpful questions ask caregivers what factors inform whether they will allow their children to walk or bike to school and, subsequently, if those factors were improved would it change their mind. That’s just the tip of the iceberg!

What issues affect your decision to allow your child to walk/bike to/from school?

1: Amount of traffic along route
2: Before or after-school activities
3: Bullying.
4: Convenience of driving.
5: Distance between home and school.
6: Fear of hate or street harassment.
7: Fear of violence or crime.
8: Lack of access to a bike or bike lock.
9: Lack of crossing guards/student patrols.
10: Lack of sidewalks or pathways.
11: No adults to walk or bike with.
12: No other students to walk or bike with.
13: Safety of intersections and crossings.
14: Time it takes to walk/bike.
15: Traffic speeds along route.
16: Weather or climate.

To get a better understanding of concerns raised in the open-ended comment section from previous years, we added a few new options to the question above. They are the italicized prompts: numbers 3, 6, 8, and 12.

Has your child asked to walk/bike to school?

Yes 83 25.4%
No 231 73.6%

What else should we know about SRTS?
You can always share additional feedback or learn more about the SRTS program at richfieldschools.org/depts-progs/safe-routes-to-school