

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: April 18, 2011

AGENDA ITEM No. 11-04-(2)-17

ACTION ITEM (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Strategic Action Plan

INFO. CONTACT: Dr. George McFarley, Jr. / Nancy Baker PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS: None.

PURPOSE: To present information to the Board of Education regarding the Orange County Safe Routes to School Action Plan.

BACKGROUND: Fewer and fewer kids walk and bike to school. Based on data collected by the Center for Disease Control, in 1969, 42% of students walked to school; in 2001, 16% walked; and currently, less than 10% walk to school. The developments of SRTS are part of the solution.

The purpose of the SRTS program is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; to make walking and bicycling to school safe and more appealing; and to facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects that will improve safety, and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The Action Plan is the best first step in a successful SRTS program. The Orange County SRTS Action Plan addresses three schools in the Hillsborough area: Cameron Park Elementary, Grady Brown Elementary, and C.W. Stanford Middle School. The planning process served as an excellent tool for engaging schools and preparing them to make significant changes in their travel environments.

The SRTS Action Plan is currently being finalized. Once it is completed, members of the SRTS Advisory Committee will come back to the Board, seeking adoption of the plan and prioritization of the recommended engineering projects. Board adoption in no way would obligate the Board to devote financial resources to these projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education receive for information the Orange County Safe Routes to School Action Plan.