

Schools

Partner Spotlight: MN Safe Routes to School

Minnesota Safe Routes to School (SRTS) strives to create communities where walking and biking are easy and safe choices, especially for youth. The Minnesota Department of Transportation, SHIP, and many other partners across the state are working together to help schools and communities develop SRTS programs. Interested, but not sure where to start? You can visit the SRTS [website](#), read their [FAQ page](#), or email your SHIP point-person to learn more.



And be sure to save the date for **International Walk to School Day on Oct. 8!**

News, Resources, and Grants



In the news . . .

- [Guns are the leading cause of death of kids and teens, and state laws matter](#) (NPR)
- [Fentanyl deaths among the young are dropping. Can the trend continue?](#) (NPR)
- [A group of Minnesota teens are taking climate change into their own hands](#) (MPR)
- [Bonus Video: Five cheetah cubs born at Saint Louis Zoo](#) (AP)

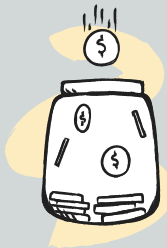
Resources . . .

- [School Indoor Air Quality Training Fall 2025](#) (Hosted by the Minnesota Department of Health)
- [Data Brief: Sexual Violence Among Minnesota Youth Up in 2022](#) (Minnesota Department of Health)
- [MN Suicide Prevention Trainer Network](#)



Grant Opportunities . . .

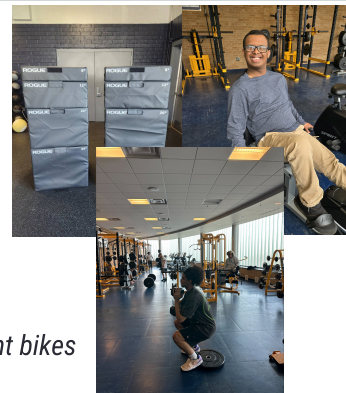
- [Grants for Music Education](#) (Save the Music Foundation)
- [School Playground and School Garden Grants](#) (Peaceful Playgrounds)
- [U.S. Playground Grant Guide](#) (Playworld)
- [Competitive Grant Opportunities](#) (Minnesota Department of Education, Running List Updated as Available)



Spotlight: Supporting Young People to Move

Both Columbia Heights High School and St. Francis High School improved their weight rooms this year with help from SHIP funds. The goal for both schools was to create safer, more accessible workout spaces for students, staff, and community members. Both schools saw increased use of the new equipment, and reported that students were having fun and learning new skills. Ultimately, the goal of these projects is to give students the confidence and skill to continue healthy movement for a lifetime. These students are on their way.

Photos, clockwise from left: new plyometric boxes at St. Francis High School; a smiling student using the new upright bikes at Columbia Heights High School; a student mid-workout using new weights in the Columbia Heights weight room.



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