



# Safe & Active Schools & Communities: Increasing Parent Involvement



Funded in part with a major grant from Measure B – your half cent transportation sales tax

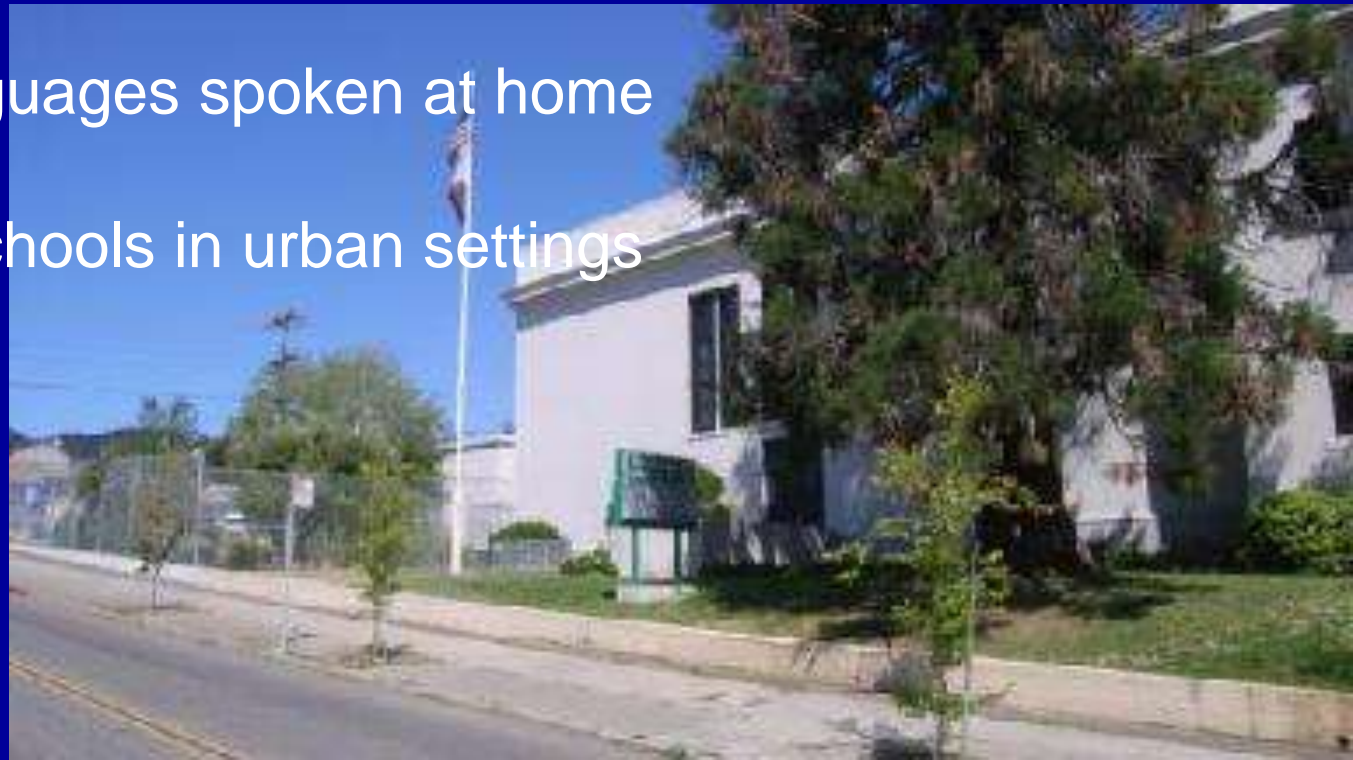


# Our County

- Population of 1.5 million
- 20% of children living in poverty
- 30% foreign-born
- Ethnically diverse
- Urban and suburban

# Our Schools: Challenges & Opportunities

- Diversity of Schools and Settings
- Many public schools are low-income and lack parent leadership infrastructure (no PTAs)
- Over 100 languages spoken at home
- Many older schools in urban settings





# Other Challenges

- Family instability, unemployment, immigration status



- Realities of Crime and Gangs

- School instability, high turnover



# AB 2147: Equity in SR2S

- AB 2147 (V. Manuel Perez)  
*Safe Routes to School construction program.*

AB 2147, as amended, V. Manuel Perez. Safe Routes to School construction program.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation . . . to establish and administer a "Safe Routes to School" construction program . . . This bill would additionally require, in rating a proposal, **the consideration of the proposal's benefit to a disadvantaged community, as defined, and the use of a public participation process, including a public meeting, as specified.**

# How do you increase parent involvement?

- Build trust and prove yourself
- Consistency and commitment
- Take the time to build relationships
- Old school technology (you have to talk to people!)



# Training parents to be leaders

## PLAN to Lead Training

Reglas/Ground Rules

- + Puntualidad/Punctuality
- + Compromiso/Compromise
- + Arriesgar/Take Risks
- + Derecho a pasar/Right to Pass
- + Mantener Estructura/Maintain Structure
- + Encuentro Respetuoso/Respectful Meeting
- + Confidentiality/Confidencialidad
- + Acordar en desacordar/Agree to disagree
- + Un Paso Adelante o Atrás/Step up or Step back
- + Tecnología/Technology

Estereotipo: Un concepto, idea o imagen que es Sobre simplificada y/o exagerada en Contra o a favor de todos los miembros de un grupo.

Stereotype: an oversimplified and/or exaggerated concept, idea or image against and/or in favor of all members of a certain group

Objetivos de Aprendizaje/Learning Objectives

- Aprender a escuchar y hablar con personas diferentes / Learn to listen and talk with different people
- Entender el significado de seguridad, abogacía y liderazgo para tener un lenguaje común en el grupo / Understand the meaning of the words "safety", "advocacy" and "leadership" and have a common language with the group
- Identificar dimensiones y aspectos importantes de nuestra identidad propia / Identify important dimensions and aspects of our own identities
- Identificarnos y relacionarnos mejor con los unos y los otros para entender la necesidad de formar un comité de seguridad / Identify and relate to one another in order to understand the need to create a safety committee

L'ab: c'est le Zi Janvier avec. J'ai cherché... Pas problem parce que... Bon nuit! -Rachel

2009/03/25



- Worked with parents for a full year
- Four 2-hour sessions
- Parents as advocates →

## Manzanita Safety Committee



- Cultural sensitivity/linguistic relevance
- Identify concerns, fears and barriers
- Find what resonates with parents
- Provide food & childcare



# Identify leaders

- Community partners, e.g. churches, neighborhood groups, CBO's, etc.
- Ask principal, family or parent liaison
- School events, for example family reading nights



# Most effective programs

- Walking schoolbus
- Walk audits and bringing safety improvements
- Parent trainings
- Contests and fun activities to engage and reward kids
- Recognize and appreciate volunteers



Successes and high points



Walking School Bus, Global Family School

# Walk audit and walking school bus, Acorn Woodland



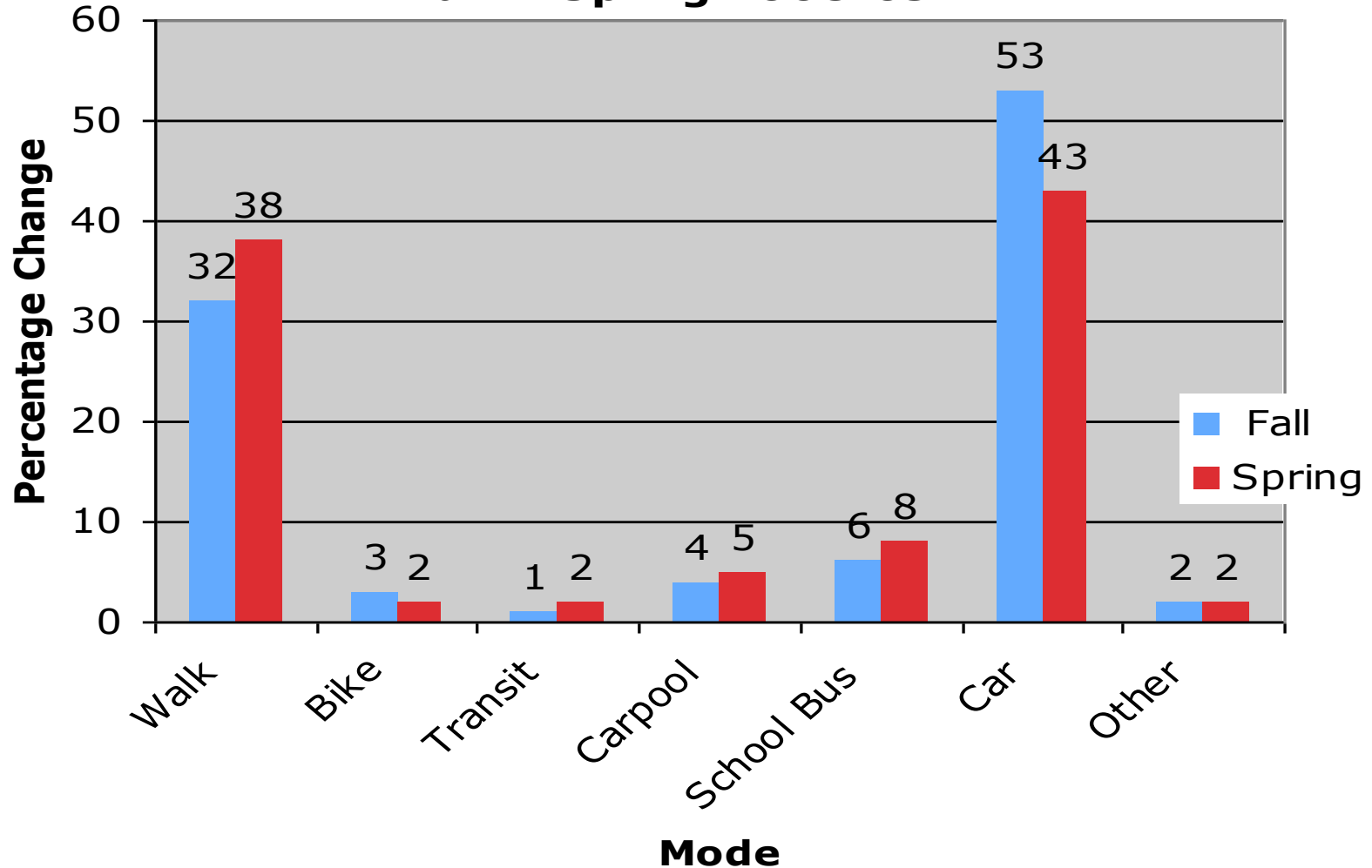
# Safe in My Neighborhood Project, Allendale School





# Results

**Countywide Mode Changes,  
Fall v. Spring 2008-09**



# Changes over one year

- Number reporting awareness of a Safe Routes to Schools program at their school doubled (16% to 32%)
- The percentage of parents answering that they plan to allow their children to walk or bike to school in the next six months increased from 8% (Fall) to 12.1% (Spring).
- Countywide, the number of students bicycling to school doubled over the course of the year, and the percentages of students traveling in carpools also increased.



Nora Cody, Director  
Safe Routes to Schools Alameda  
County Partnership  
(510) 740-3150 ext. 323  
[nora@transformca.org](mailto:nora@transformca.org)