



INTRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As SRTS practitioners, we know that a lot of factors go into each family’s decision of how to get to school. • We also know we need to be nimble and address a lot of non-transportation barriers through our work. • For a lot of families, in the Bay Area and across the country, it may feel uniquely difficult or unsafe to travel on public roads. • When families are worried, it shows up in school attendance, stress levels, & in other ways. It becomes a <i>transportation and access issue</i>, and we also know many SRTS interventions also address issues of chronic absenteeism. • We wanted to hold space today to talk about what ‘meeting the needs of the moment’ looks like for your programs, what you’re seeing and the folks working on the ground are experiencing as they work with families.
LAWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California’s sanctuary laws are part of the <i>California Values Act</i>, or SB 54, which has been in effect since 2018 • Limits how state & local law enforcement interact with ICE • Here’s what that actually means: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schools are meant to be safe spaces: meaning immigration enforcement actions at schools are generally discouraged under federal policy. However, that is guidance, not a law, so it can change 2. Local police are not supposed to act as immigration enforcement. 3. And schools aren’t supposed to share personal information. <p>California’s sanctuary law doesn’t make schools ‘protected spaces’ in the sense of blocking federal enforcement. It mainly limits how state and local agencies, like police, can participate.</p> <p>Travel to and from school has never been protected, which is a big part of why this shows up as a transportation and access issue.</p>
WHAT TO DO?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So what can we do? As SRTS providers, we <i>do</i> have an impact on how people experience their community. • That can include <u>walking school buses</u> where students travel together with a trusted adult, instead of alone. • It can be <u>bike buses</u> or <u>group meet-up spots</u> so that students feel more anonymous and protected – because they know that if there is a problem, they won’t have to face it alone. • It can mean partnering with community groups and grassroots parent networks – people families already know and trust – to help lead those routes or spread information. • And it can be as simple as being thoughtful about what information we collect and share, so families feel safe participating in programs. • All of that builds something bigger: safety, connection, and trust. And when students feel supported – like <i>actually</i> supported – they’re more likely to show up.
INFORM	<p>I don’t want to over-emphasise the safety & protection walking groups provide, these concerns are legitimate.</p> <p>Through your work on Safe Routes to School programs, you may have already or will encounter situations where immigrant families feel unsafe due to immigration enforcement activity near schools or SRTS events.</p> <p>We encourage you to reflect on what you would personally feel comfortable doing in these scenarios so you can feel prepared and confident if such a situation arises. It is perfectly acceptable to not feel comfortable intervening; every person will have different comfort levels based on their own lived experience and identity.</p>
	Discussion