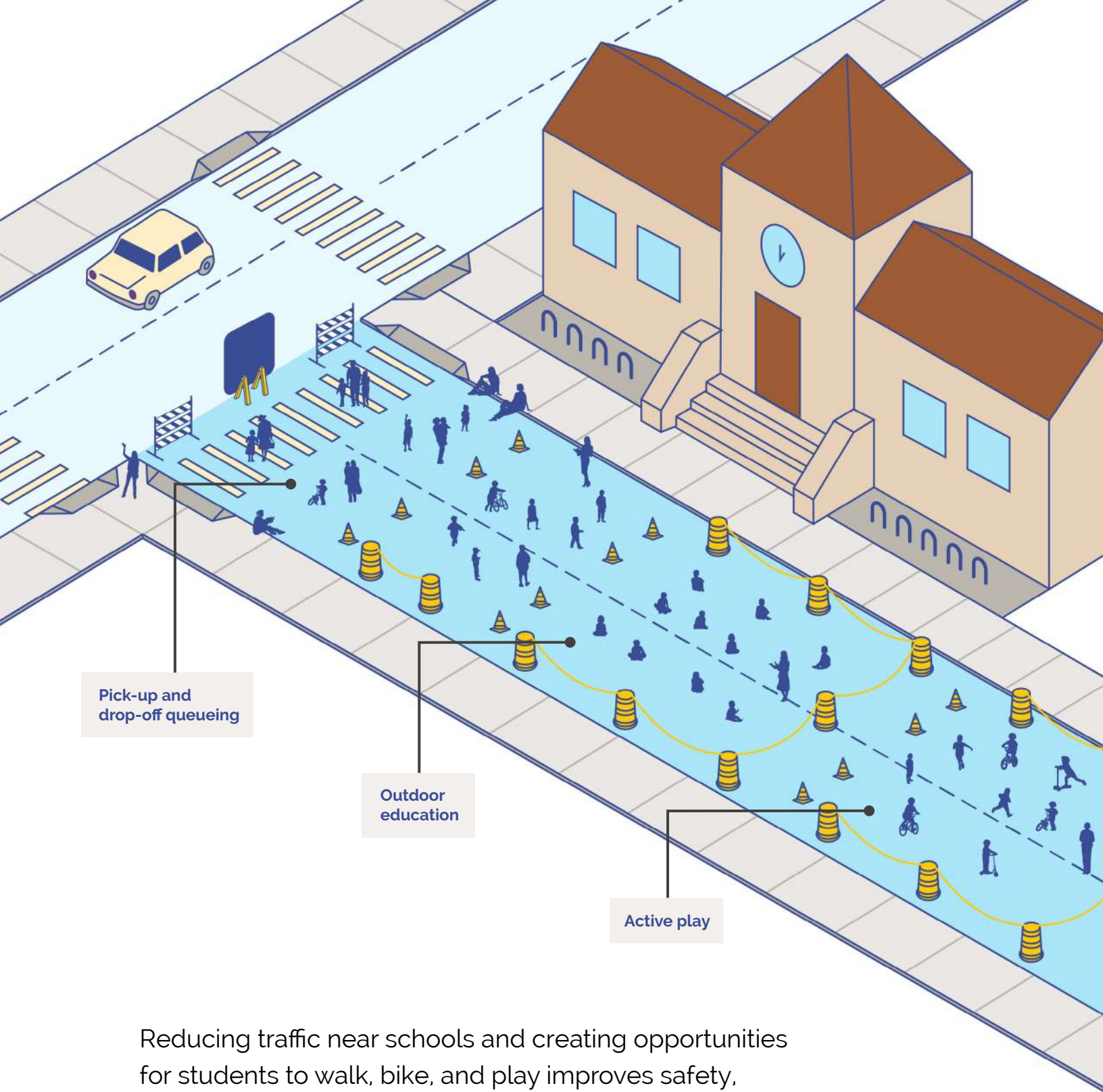




MINNESOTA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

SCHOOL STREETS + PARK & WALK

OCTOBER 2020



Pick-up and drop-off queuing

Outdoor education

Active play

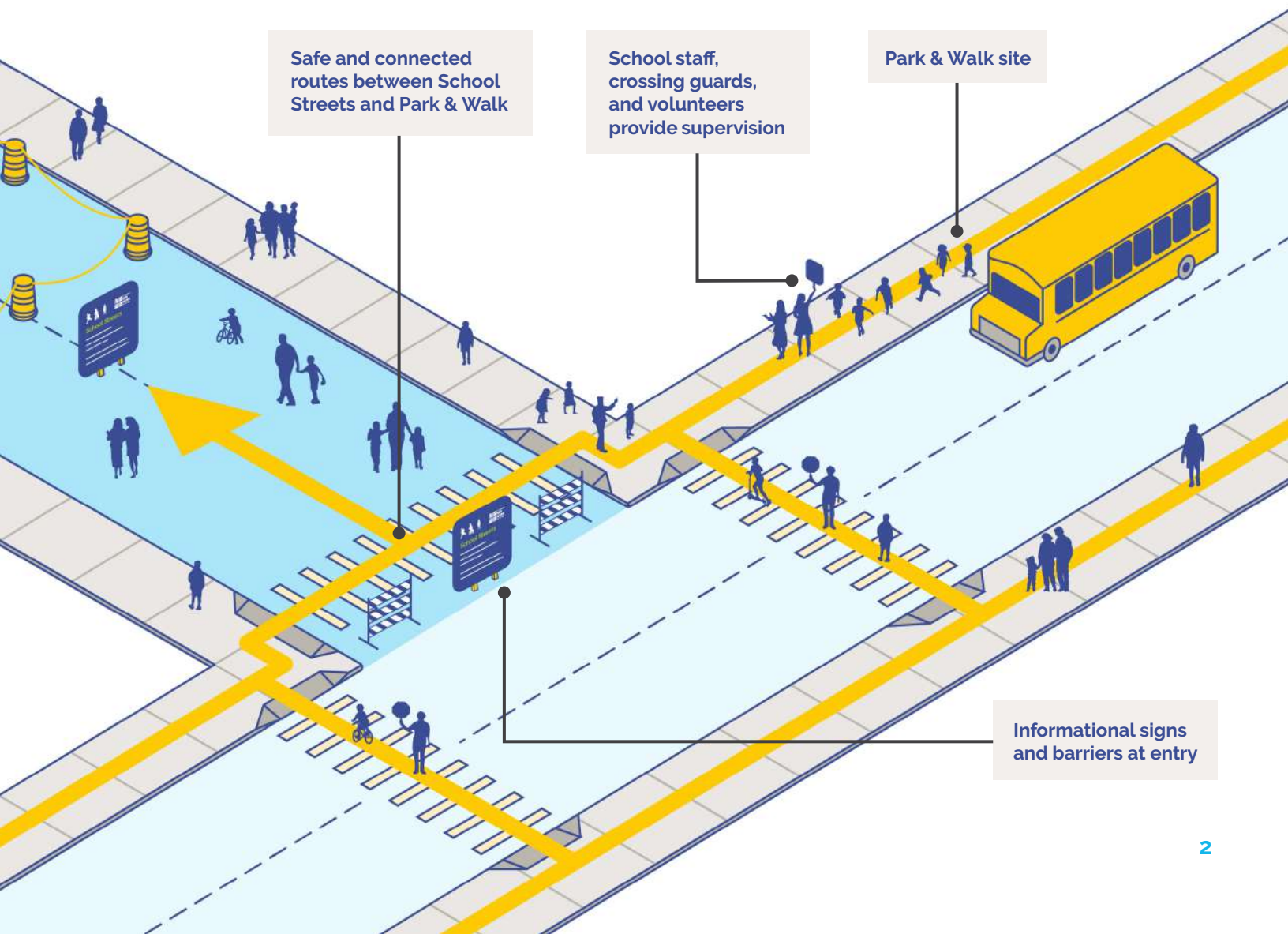
Reducing traffic near schools and creating opportunities for students to walk, bike, and play improves safety, mental and physical health, academic performance, and more. School Streets and Park & Walk programs allow more students to experience walking and biking to school by shortening walking distances, opening up streets for play, and providing adult supervision. Best of all, they can be quickly implemented at little to no cost to schools.

School Streets are temporary car-free zones adjacent to or leading up to a school that are strategically closed to vehicle traffic and opened to children walking, biking, and rolling. School Streets help manage traffic and improve safety during school arrival and dismissal by eliminating vehicle congestion in front of schools and creating an environment where children can safely walk, bike, roll, play and learn before, during, and after school.

A **Park & Walk** takes place before school when school buses and caregivers drop students at an established location a few blocks from school. Students are greeted by school staff, parents, or other volunteers and are supervised on their walk and roll into school. This strategy is also called "Remote Drop," "Bus Stop and Walk," or "Drop and Walk." Check out the [Minnesota Safe Routes to School Resource Center](#) for more information.

Combining School Streets + Park & Walk programs creates additional opportunities for more students to safely walk, roll, and be physically active before school. When implemented together, the program can offer a robust encouragement and safety strategy to get students to school.

Note that School Streets + Park & Walk materials may already exist locally. School Streets are not appropriate on all roadways, for example high speed or high traffic roads. Work with local partners to select programs that meet the community's needs and context.



SCHOOL STREETS + PARK & WALK IN ACTION

Key Steps:

- » Establish a School Street adjacent to school for students to walk, bike, roll, play, and learn
- » Coordinate Park & Walk locations for bus drivers and caregivers
- » Create a safe walking and rolling route between the Park & Walk site and School Street

Timeline: Days to weeks to plan, hours to implement.

Duration: Before, during, and/or after school for several days, weeks, or months

BENEFITS



Safety

Reduce traffic conflicts and increase adult supervision



Improved Air Quality

Mitigate idling near campus for cleaner air



Student Wellness

Build physical activity and its many benefits into the day



Youth Autonomy

Support youth autonomy and independence



Academic Performance

Increase student attention, focus, and school performance



Community Connections

Build community by encouraging people to work together



Congestion Reduction

Shift motorized traffic away from schools and school routes



Recreational Space

Create extra space for recess and other recreational activities

DEVELOPING A SCHOOL STREETS + PARK & WALK PROGRAM



Engage

- » Establish a team to support outreach and engagement, planning and design, permitting and approvals, data collection, material management, and overall coordination. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's [Demonstration Project Implementation Guide](#) contains useful information about building a team and securing approvals for temporary street projects such as School Streets.
- » Collaborate with students, caregivers, business owners, and residents who live in the immediate area to gather support and help shape the program.
- » Recruit traffic safety leaders, community members, and members of the school community to mobilize support for the program and assist with implementation.



Plan

- » Identify School Street and Park & Walk locations.
 - **Park & Walk** locations should be a few blocks away from campus and have a route to school that is safe, comfortable, and ADA accessible.
 - **School Streets** may be on one or more streets adjacent to the school. Prioritize School Street(s) near the school access point from the Park & Walk location.
- » Work with city staff to help identify School Street and Park & Walk locations and understand their process for implementing temporary road closures.
- » Consider program duration. It could be days, weeks, months, or somewhere in between. Longer programs may require more effort or funds to plan and implement.
- » Establish program goals, determine what success looks like, and develop talking points to communicate program goals and benefits.
- » Consider incentives to encourage participation among students and families.
- » Gather baseline data about travel habits and behavior to compare with data taken during the program.

For more information, detailed guidance, and material templates

[Park and Walk to School Program Guide, Minnesota SRTS](#)

[School Streets Guidebook, 8 80 Cities](#)

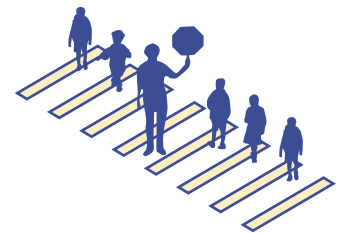
[Streets for Pandemic Recovery and Response, NACTO](#)

[Demonstration Project Implementation Guide, MnDOT](#)



Launch

- » Provide clear, consistent, and recognizable directional and informational signage.
 - **Provide easy-to-move barriers and signage** for drivers noting the closure, School Street period, alternate routes, and other information.
 - **Create bright, simple signs** for posting along the Park & Walk route into the school and at the entry to the School Street. Consider asking students and local artists to help create signs. (See example on page 6)
- » Provide guidance and ongoing logistical support to school staff or volunteers who are ushering students into school and supervising the School Street traffic closure.
 - Depending on the type of road, some jurisdictions may require police presence. If possible, consider using volunteers, crossing guards, or paid flaggers instead of police to ensure that all families feel welcome and safe. Volunteers may also reduce costs associated with these efforts along with time and effort coordinating with an outside agency.
- » Promote School Streets + Park & Walk to students, caregivers, and the immediate community.
 - **Use existing school communication channels** to connect with parents, students, and school staff, highlighting the goals, benefits, logistics, and revised school traffic pattern.
 - **Provide clear information** about the street closure, traffic revisions, and parking direction to affected neighbors, including those with Limited English Proficiency.
 - **Incorporate the locations and route into Walk & Roll to School Maps** or other transportation information provided to families. Consider the written and oral languages needed to promote this important traffic information.



Evaluate

- » Gather launch-day data to assess travel habits and behavior, and conduct observations throughout the duration of the program. Both quantitative counts and qualitative feedback from students, families, staff, business owners, and residents are important.



Sustain

- » Share the successes and adjustments for the program broadly to garner more support and highlight community-driven creativity within the pilot.
- » Work with city transportation planners and engineers to assess and address any emerging traffic safety concerns.
- » Host special activities to continue students and families to participate in the program through recruiting a local celebrity to join on the Park & Walk and walk with students into school; hold a special activity on the School Street a few weeks after launch to continue to encourage activation of the space.

Example of MnSRTS approved School Streets signage.
For maximum visibility, create a sign that is at least 24" x 24"



MINNESOTA
SAFE
ROUTES
TO SCHOOL

School Streets

Closed to motorized vehicle traffic
on school days, Monday to Friday.

Morning School Streets: X-X

Afternoon School Streets: X-X



MINNESOTA
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