

Describe why your school should receive a Safe Routes Startup Award. **Use only the space provided.**

Vilonia Primary School, located in Conway, and Eagles' Landing, a district before and after school child care program, as well as summer program, are located a minimum of one block from Hwy 64 in Conway. Vilonia Primary, 4 Bane Lane in Conway, enrolls 507 students in grades kindergarten through fourth. Eagles' Landing is licensed for 130 students, with a waiting list to attend existing. These students have a wonderful facility and area to engage in a Safe Routes to School Program. This information is desperately needed and has not been addressed in previous years. Student awareness on safety in biking and walking safely must be prioritized! Vilonia Primary School and Eagles' Landing average 2% of the enrollment walking to school with no one riding a bicycle. This is due to the highway setting, but also because walking to school and bicycle safety has never been addressed.

The granting of "Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style" will allow the Conway school and child care program to coordinate its efforts with the "downtown" schools. This will allow the parents, community and educators, located twelve miles away, to become educated regarding transportation choices, education of students and parents in the importance of lifelong bicycling and walking choices. This correlates perfectly with the Primary School's wellness program. With each student currently receiving BMI checks, and organized physical activities being conducted within the classrooms that are above and beyond recess and physical education, this program would compliment Vilonia Primary School's curriculum.

VPS currently employs one full-time Resource Officer, with eight additional officers available to the schools. Partnering with the local law enforcement to work with the students in proper walking and bicycling behaviors and taking the lead in enforcement of driving speed, yielding to pedestrians in crossings and assisting in the community awareness program regarding safe routes for walking and biking, a STRONG awareness campaign will be initiated. Students, parents and the community deserve this program!

Through the startup grant, the engineering of physical improvements allowing students to walk and bike to school will be examined. During initial planning meetings regarding this grant, parents and city officials will think about posts with knotted neon ropes along the highway for children to walk beside. This would insure the student's distance from the highway, and make them visible to motorist. Establishing safer crossings away from the school where students cross to enter their subdivisions currently have no flashing lights, or painted cross-walks. This must be addressed. Parent and city leader enthusiasm during the planning session was amazing, and literally heart warming. Parents began sharing the thoughts and dreams they had been harboring for the school and child care facility regarding these exact ideas. Encouragement for this program was expressed. This is why two start-up grants for two separate areas of the district was decided upon, with coordination between all campuses and the before and after school program targeted. Two programs with one constant variable... Safe Routes to School!

Daily evaluation must be at the forefront. Parent surveys, feedback forms and continual communication are critical. Monitoring and addressing participant concerns, revising routes, and identifying successes and problems, as well as speaking with students, teachers, parents, school administrators and community members is on-going. Continual planning for the next school term, summer vacations and graduation from primary school to middle school will be reviewed. Ways in which to expand walking and biking programs to the numerous neighborhoods and community will be addressed. A secure, "walkable" community and school district will be addressed.

1. **Overall number of students enrolled in your school. (Information only-no points)**
507 Vilonia Primary School, 130 Eagles' Landing Summer and Before and After School Child Care Program
2. **Number of students within a two-mile radius of your school. 200 based on bus driver surveys and office personnel.**
3. **Number of children involved with motor vehicles while walking or bicycling to or from school in the past 24 months. None-Vilonia Primary School discourages children from walking or riding their bicycles to school...no safety program has ever been initiated due to a variety of reasons. The time to begin is NOW!**

The Arkansas Safe Routes To School Advisory Committee will rate the following items. Points can range from zero up to a maximum as listed for each item. Failure to respond will result in zero points awarded for that particular item.

4. **Describe any cooperative agreements between your school and city or county governmental agencies. 10 points**

A wonderful "perk" of being a small rural community is that everyone knows everyone, and everyone takes care of everyone. The Vilonia Police Department and school district hold a cooperative agreement regarding ballgames, both home and away. Traffic, crowd control and monitoring of groups are a strong cooperative agreement between both entities. The county judge has a home in Vilonia. School district successes are on the forefront of his agenda. Senator Gilbert Baker has seven children and a home in the school district. The city has also assisted in grants allowing the district to build a tornado safe room. Vilonia School District enrolls over 2,500 students. The town of Vilonia has a population of 2,500. The need for a strong, highly integrated walking/biking program with trails around the community for both, meshed with parent involvement is critical!

5. **Outline personnel responsibilities and the timeline necessary to accomplish the tasks. 10 points**

Key personnel: Director-responsible for all flyers, school faculty, city administrators, police department, media attention and parent meetings. Curriculum integration, weekend walking and bike rodeos and marathons will be orchestrated. This person is accountable for expenditures. Paid personnel to teach walking and bicycle safety courses after school hours and on Saturday and Sundays is essential. Staff members from Eagles' Landing are happy to assist, but additional mentors and "teaching personnel" must be employed to assist with the student program and creation of paths down busy streets/highways. Volunteers-to "lead the way" as the program is implemented are essential. Volunteers will assist the Director and program personnel in raising the bar of excellence regarding program implementation. Together Vilonia School District will bring attention to the fact that working together, "we makes me stronger."

"Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style" will begin immediately upon award notification and will continue through December. The summer programs are the thrust, with these trained students instructing and leading classes during the school year.

6. Describe how affected students and parents will be informed of the benefits of the Safe Routes To School Program. 10 points

Benefits of “Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style” will be conveyed in numerous ways. Vilonia Primary School, located in Conway, and Eagles’ Landing, also in Conway, each has newsletters. These are wonderful sources of information for parents and the community. Within the school area two gas stations exist and a laundry mat. Each has a community bulletin board that patrons literally “live-by.” (Yes, we’re rural!) Posters and informational bulletins will be posted here. Area churches are wonderful about announcing community events. Vilonia Primary School has a large marquee advertising upcoming school and community events. Printed summer calendars will allow parents to know who, what, when and where various age activities are planned. Parents love the idea of June, July and August grades K-1, grades 2-3, and grade 4 biking and walking activities. With testing at the forefront of education, this comes as a welcomed relief! Each month, a minimum of two “bike days” and/or “Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style” will be held. These monthly events will be coordinated with the district’s other program, “Walking and Talking in V’Town.” Student involvement will be abundant! One neat idea to be noted is that Vilonia Primary School and Eagles’ Landing are adjacent to the district’s Parent Center. A great place for parent support and community discussions to be expanded upon!

7. How will the effectiveness of your Safe Routes To School Coalition’s work be evaluated? 10 points

Evaluation will occur on a daily basis. The program’s director, school and child care personnel will listen to the community, parent and student requests. At the close of each meeting, evaluations will be distributed. Surveys and evaluation templates, available at www.walktoschool.org, will be used. At the conclusion of each grade level event students, teachers, parents, school administrators and other groups involved with “Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style” will be asked what they found to be the strong points of the program, and what they would like to see improved upon. Success stories will be collected and printed in newspapers and newsletters. “Monitor and adjust” will be the motto in addressing the program, in the revision of routes, and strategies regarding biking/walking routes. Daily evaluations allow confirmation that the program is meeting its goals. It allows the identification of successes and challenges. It will also allow for critical support of the program. Means by which to sustain the program will be a point of discussion. Evaluation will lead to promotion and expansion of the program, resulting in additional bike routes and walking paths. Constant evaluation will also keep morale high and motivate participants. Adults and children alike get excited when their ideas are implemented. The incorporation of ideas generates enthusiasm for the program. To assist in keeping neighborhood and K-4 student interest high, competitive programming will be incorporated, introducing small tokens or ribbons. Evaluation will be measured by growing student numbers, and program dissemination to interested parties. “Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style” will increase the number of walkers and bikers to school by 50. Funding of “Walking and Rolling, Eagle Style” will implement a dynamic walking, biking and community supported activity! Let’s get started!