

AAA Of Southern New England **Education and Outreach Programs**

Walk Safe

Walk Safe is a partnership program between AAA, the school (and often the local police department). Walk Safe is a three-day elementary school curriculum which includes classroom, physical education, and art lesson plan lesson plans to teach pedestrian safety. Lessons are customized by grade level and lesson plans are available for review at www.walksafe.us .

Walk Safe is an excellent fit for communities engaged in *Safe Routes to School*, fulfilling the education requirements for grant funding. The curriculum can be modified to include other community members, such as D.A.R.E. or safety officers into the implementation of the lessons. It is also a perfect complement to AAA's *School Safety Patrol program*, fostering a safer school community and teaching students essential safety practices they will utilize for life!

AAA School Safety Patrol

In 1921, former Woonsocket, R.I. Police Chief Frederick E. Coe implemented the AAA School Safety Patrol on the streets surrounding Woonsocket schools. Mr. Coe is credited with being one of the first officials in the U.S. to pioneer the program. Today more than 175 schools in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and more than 50,000 schools worldwide participate in the program. Many local police departments collaborate with the schools in the community to help train and support patrollers and their adult advisors. AAA provides the belts, badges and necessary membership materials free of charge.

Otto the Auto & Friends

Otto is the AAA Traffic Safety Education mascot, a talking car who is available for special appearances to schools (Pre-K through grade 1) and community events to educate children about seatbelts, booster seats, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. He helps to create a memorable visit by answering student's questions and leaves gifts (free educational materials)!

Classroom and Community Outreach

AAA's Traffic Safety Education Specialist is available to work with educators, community groups, police departments and healthcare providers to provide support for safety campaigns. Whether a sixty-minute classroom lesson about traffic safety issues, **child passenger safety education, bicycle and helmet check-ups, or school bus safety**

campaigns, we are committed to providing education for young people and support to local communities.

AAA's Traffic Safety Message Contest

Visit AAA.com/safetymatters to view information on our annual K-12 traffic safety poster and video contest! For more than 50 years, AAA has reached out to students of all grade levels to better educate young people about safety in and around traffic. This annual contest gives students the opportunity to demonstrate proper skills and behavior in regard to pedestrian, bike and school bus safety, seat belt and child restraint use, and safe driving practices. Pedestrian, bike, and automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages two to 18 years. **One student's message could save a life!**

Please feel free to share this information with principals, classroom, health and physical education teachers in your district. Contact Diana Imondi Dias, AAA's Traffic Safety Education Specialist to schedule programs at ddias@aaasne.com or (401)868-2000, ext. 2126.