Here are some ways to include students who can’t walk or bike from home because of distance, safety concerns, or a disability.

Set Up a Park and Walk Site
Park and walk sites are off-campus places, like parks, libraries, and churches, with enough space for kids and adults to congregate and for cars and busses to park or drop-off. They enable participation from kids who can’t walk or bike from home and reduce traffic congestion near the school, creating a better walking and bicycling environment. Here’s a way to do it:

- Pick a site. Consider kids’ abilities and how much time you have. Be sure to get approval from the person who owns or manages the site.
- Map out a safe route and walk it. This will give you a better sense of timing and where kids may need assistance.
- Recruit volunteers to serve as chaperones and help kids across intersections. Reach out to local officials and law enforcement.
- Provide pedestrian safety education reminders before and during the walk.
- Let parents know where to go and the route kids will take.

Organized walks on school grounds or through nearby neighborhoods with safe routes are a great way to include kids who can’t walk or bike from home. They can happen before, during, or after school…even on weekends! Here’s a way to do it:

- Consider kids’ abilities and how much time you have.
- Map out a safe route and walk it.
- Recruit volunteers. Reach out to local officials and law enforcement.

- Provide pedestrian safety education reminders before and during the walk.
- Let parents know what it is happening. Recognize that permission slips may be required for neighborhood walk-abouts.
- Consider coordinating with other school or neighborhood events, such as mandatory emergency evacuation drill.

Hold a Safety Assembly
Assemblies are great way to educate students about pedestrian safety, personal safety, helmet use, bicycle readiness, and more. Potential speakers include law enforcement, safety advocates, bike/ped advocates... even students! Consider including as part of a SAFETY WEEK!

Involve a Special Education Professional
Special education professionals can help you plan an event that includes children with disabilities. For more, see http://saferoutesinfo.org/sites/default/files/resources/Involving_students_with_disabilities.pdf

Got questions? Contact our Local Technical Assistance Coordinators at 1.855.601.7787 or email us at info@VirginiaSRTS.org.