Star Rating for Schools (SR4S) and Safe Kids Worldwide

Lifesavers Conference
April 2, 2019
Outline

• Star Rating for Schools (SR4S) overview
• Training workshop
• Safe Kids role
• Assessment
• Next Steps
• Q&A
What is Star Rating for Schools (SR4S)?

- Adaptation of iRAP’s Star Rating measurement system used to provide simple, comparable, and objective measurements of the safety of road segments for road users.
- SR4S, a mobile application, uses the same Star Rating measurement system to measure and communicate road safety risks children and adolescents are exposed to on their journey to and from school.
Star Rating for Schools

Discussion with school
Coding around school
Current Star Rating
Treatment suggestions
Implementation

Assessment of treatments
Upgrade Star Rating
Quality Assurance
Results reported
Pupils educated
What is the benefit of using SR4S?

- Complementary to existing road and pedestrian safety projects in school zones
- SR4S is an assessment tool that provides globally standardized Star Ratings for selected locations within a school zone
- Star Ratings provide data and evidence to support proposed enhancements to selected locations
- Star Ratings can be used to support advocacy efforts to increase pedestrian safety within the school zone
- Increased engagement between Safe Kids coalitions and local schools
What is Safe Kids Role?

- Part of a larger international working group tasked with field testing the SR4S app
  - Introducing the SR4S app to the United States
- How SKW can use SR4S:
  - Assessment tool for coalitions
  - Complementary to “Take Action Toolkit”
  - Complimentary to events/awareness activities
- Currently field testing the app, but will later assist with rolling out SR4S for wider usage in the U.S.
Process

• Workshop in Washington, D.C.:
  • Training on how to use the SR4S application
  • Testing SR4S at a local D.C. school
  • Practice, Practice, Practice!

• Next Steps
  • Field testing SR4S at selected school in local community
  • Present findings and get feedback from selected schools
  • Submit findings to Safe Kids Worldwide
Assessment Categories

- Road Environment
- Road Type
- Road Features
- School Zone
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Flow
- Intersections and Curves
- Speed
Road Environment
What is Being Assessed

- Land Use
- Area Type
- Vehicle Parking
- Sight Distance
What is Being Assessed

- Number of lanes
- Lane division
- Lane width
- Road condition
- Skid Resistance
- Grade
Road Features
What is Being Assessed

- Median type
- Hatching
- Delineation
- Street lighting
School Zone

Edit Location

School Zone

School Warning

School Crossing Supervisor

Save Draft
What is Being Assessed

- School zone warnings
- School crossing supervisors
Sidewalks
What is Being Assessed

- Sidewalks
- Road Shoulders
- Pedestrian fencing
Pedestrian Crossing

Edit Location

Does the road have pedestrian crossing?

Not Present

Present on Main Road

Save Draft
What is Being Assessed

- Types of pedestrian crossing (i.e. crosswalks, traffic lights, bridges, refuge)
- Refuge
Flow

Vehicle Flow

- Pedestrian peak hour flow across the road (0 to 900+): 0
- Pedestrian peak hour flow along the Road Driver-Side (0 to 900+): 0
- Pedestrian peak hour flow along the Road: 0

Save Draft
What is Being Assessed

- Vehicle Flow
- Pedestrian Flow
  - Crossing the street
  - Walking on the left side of the road
  - Walking on the right side of the road
Intersections and Curves
What is Being Assessed

- Presence of intersection and/or curves
- Intersection type (i.e. roundabout, merge lane, U-turn, train tracks)
- Property access points
- Intersection side flow
- Intersection quality
- Channelization
# Speed

## Speed Limit

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## Operating Speed

-10 km/h  -5 km/h  0 km/h  +5 km/h  +10 km/h  +15 km/h
What is Being Assessed

- Speed limit
- Vehicle operating speed
- Speed management
Getting your Results

Key:
- 1 star
- 2 star
- 3 star
- 4 star
- 5 star
Next Steps

- Using SR4S Star Ratings, you have data to:
  - Petition school board for pedestrian safety improvement projects
  - Advocate to local government for improved pedestrian safety in school zones using the Take Action Toolkit as a resource
  - Educate students and/or their families on pedestrian safety risks and best practices
Star Ratings for Schools: (SR4S)

A Pedestrian Safety Assessment by Safe Kids Fargo-Moorhead
Schools Assessed

- Kindred Elementary School
  - Kindred, ND
- Dilworth Elementary and Middle School
  - Dilworth, MN
- LE Berger Elementary School
  - West Fargo, ND
Schools Assessed

- Kindred Elementary School
  - Kindred, ND
  - 6 towns in the school district
  - 454 kids in K-6th grade
Kindred – Population was estimated at 762 in 2017
Kindred Elementary School

Key:
- 1 star
- 2 star
- 3 star
- 4 star
- 5 star
Pedestrian Safety - Strengths

- Crossing guards at main intersection during peak hours
- No vehicle parking along the school zone’s main road
- Marked crosswalks at every intersection surveyed
- Flashing school zone signs
Pedestrian Safety - Weaknesses

- Lack of school zone signage by the high school
- Absence of sidewalks on side streets
- High traffic parking lot with:
  - Parent pick up and drop offs
  - School bus traffic
Improvements

- Moved drop off and pick up locations for parent’s
- Pre-school – 2\textsuperscript{nd} grade staff only parking lot on North side
- 3\textsuperscript{rd}-6\textsuperscript{th} grade staff parking lot on South side
- Buses changed their direction and path
- Re-painted their crosswalks
Outcomes

• 1st Ave. N./Spruce St. intersection was a 3★ Star and after the proposed changes were made it was improved up to a 4 ★ Star
Schools Assessed

- Dilworth Elementary and Middle School
  - Dilworth, MN
  - 825 kids
Dilworth - The population was estimated at 4,415 in 2017.
Pedestrian Safety - Strengths

- Vehicles operating at speed below speed limit around school
- Marked crosswalks at intersections near school
- Most crossing intersections are regulated with stop signs or a stop light
Pedestrian Safety - Weaknesses

• Lack of school zone signage
• Parking on both sides of road on many of main school roads
• Students coming out of many doors to many intersections
• No crosswalks at Hwy 10 intersection
Improvements

- Added blinking lights to the stop signs at 3 way stop at one intersection
- Added school zone signage in two places
- Contacted the Minnesota State Highway Department to add a crosswalk to Highway 10 and Main Street
Outcomes

- When the State Highway Department adds a crosswalk to Highway 10 and Main Street it will go from a 1 star to a 3 star rating!

- The Department of Transportation is also onboard with adding the needed crosswalks.
Other Benefits of the Star Ratings for Schools: A Pedestrian Safety Assessment

- Built relationships within our local and regional school systems
- Made the school staff more aware of the safety of their students out on the roads around the school
- We have connections within the school systems that we can reach out to with other areas of injury prevention education
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