



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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WHAT IS THE OTTAWA SAFETY COUNCIL?

Founded as a not-for-profit, non-government organization in 1957, the Ottawa Safety Council is a leader in safety education. Originally offering our Motorcycle Training Program, through which participants can receive their M1 and M2 licenses, we have since expanded to include programming that touches on all aspects of road safety, including the Municipal Adult Crossing Guard program (for the City of Ottawa, since 2002), WalkSafe and CycleSafe programs (since 2002), Bestfit Car Seat Program (2013) and our Walking School Bus Program (For the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority, since 2014). We continually check our environment to identify gaps in safety promotion and seek to meet the need, either through individual effort or with the many health and safety-related organizations throughout Ottawa and Eastern Ontario with whom we cooperate.

In 2019, before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, OSC educated over 25,000 students (JK – Grade 6) in the Ottawa area, in both English and French schools across four Boards of Education with our **WalkSafe** pedestrian safety program.

In response to public health initiatives that made in-person programming impossible, the OSC launched a new **RoadSMARTS4Kids digital educational resources** webpage for kids in early April 2021. This virtual platform provides access to much of the pedestrian and cycling safety programming once taught in-person, through videos, activities, e-learning courses and downloadable lesson plans for teachers.

WHAT IS ROADSMARTS4KIDS?

The **RoadSMARTS4Kids (RS4K) library of resources** provides digital, “turn-key” educational resources for use by teachers, educators and parents. RS4K makes learning important road safety concepts, skills and awareness fun and engaging for elementary age children, while meeting curriculum requirements. These resources are free, easy to use and cover a variety of age-appropriate road safety teachings.

The RS4K library offers Educators:

- The RoadSMARTS E-academy – A suite of fun, educational, interactive and “gamified” e-learning courses and quizzes
- Downloadable Lesson Plans & Presentations
- Videos
- Worksheets, Activities & Challenges

WHY IS TEACHING ROAD SAFETY TO KIDS IMPORTANT?

Seventeen children ages 0 to 14 years were killed in pedestrian incidents in Canada in 2020. On average, there are around 1,000 child pedestrians struck each year. Children between the ages of 1-14 years have the highest incidence of bicycle injury hospitalization as compared to any other age group and children aged 10-14 years represent the majority of hospitalizations, followed by the 5-9 year age group. (Parachute.ca, 2022)

We can all do better at preparing children with the skills and awareness they need to navigate our roads safely. **Being safe on our shared roads is an important life skill and you're never too young to start learning about road safety.** Before they even get behind the wheel of a car, kids need to learn fundamental skills in navigating our roads safely as pedestrians, cyclists and passengers. RoadSMARTS4Kids was created to instill safe road user behaviour in children early on, which is critical for their development AND will create better road users of tomorrow.

WHAT TOPICS ARE COVERED IN THE RS4K RESOURCES?

The current resources in RS4K cover the following:

- **Pedestrian Safety:** Where & how to cross the street, visual barriers, see and be seen, stopping distances, the dangers of distraction and much more!
- **Cycling Safety:** Helmet safety, communicating with other road users, being predictable, riding, stopping & falling safely, target fixation, hazard scanning, shoulder checks and much more!
- **Walking places independently:** Readiness, judgement, safe route planning, people smarts, emergency planning and more!
- **Booster Seat Safety:** Why boosters are important, proper seatbelt fit & use, when are you ready to transition and more!

HOW LONG ARE THE LESSONS/COURSES?

The lessons and e-learning courses range from 30-60 minutes to deliver/complete.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Thanks to support from Transport Canada and the Ministry of Transportation, **all RoadSMARTS4Kids resources are free to teachers and educators to use.** Please refer to our Terms of Use before downloading and accessing them.

WILL YOU BE ADDING MORE RESOURCES?

Yes – we plan to regularly add new resources to the RS4K library. You can sign up for our newsletter to hear about new additions [here](#).



TERMS OF USE

CAN I USE RS4K FOR MY WHOLE SCHOOL BOARD?

Yes – school boards are welcome and encouraged to use the RS4K resources in their schools. To assist with promoting the resources to educators in your Board we have created a [digital media kit](#) where you can download posters and info about the program.

We do ask that all entities using and promoting the resources widely abide strictly by our [Terms of Use](#) and be prepared to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ottawa Safety Council. For more information on using the resources in your school board or municipality contact Kelly.banks@ottawasafetycouncil.ca

DO THE RESOURCES HELP FULFILL MY CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS?

The RS4K lessons and resource are designed with Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum requirements in mind (these may vary from Province to Province) and touch on various areas in Health & Physical Education (Active Living, Movement Competence, Healthy Living), Science and Technology (Daily & Seasonal Changes, Light & Sound, Matter & Energy, Data management & probability, scientific inquiry, calculating mean, operational sense, measurement) and Language (Oral, Reading, Writing and Media literacy).

WHAT AGES/GRADES ARE THE LESSONS APPROPRIATE FOR? ARE THE RESOURCES SPECIFIC TO GRADE?

Learning to be safe on our roads starts at a young age. RS4K grows with your students. Lessons are designed to meet children's level of comprehension.

- **JK to Grade 2:** RS4K lessons lay the foundation of basic road safety concepts.
- **Grade 3-4:** RS4K road safety concepts advance, as children's critical thinking and awareness of other road users perspectives grow.
- **Grade 5 and 6:** RS4K lessons prepare children to be alert and use safe and good judgement as they start using the road more independently.

While we have pre-determined what grades the resources are most appropriate for, there is no harm in using the e-learning courses and lessons from younger grades as a good refresh and reminder for older students. Keep in mind though that younger grades may struggle with the more abstract concepts in the lessons that are geared towards older students.

I AM WITH A MUNICIPALITY AND/OR A PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT, HOW CAN I USE RS4K IN MY COMMUNITY?


The best way to use the resources in your community would be through the schools and Boards of education. To assist with promoting the resources to educators in your Board we have created a [digital media kit](#) where you can download posters and info about the program.

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Kelly.banks@ottawasafetycouncil.ca

I AM WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY, CAN I USE THE RS4K RESOURCES?

As per the OSC's RS4K [Terms of Use](#), we do not grant any right, title or license in the E-learning courses and education resources or the content or other data or materials incorporated in the E-learning courses and education resources and you may not sublicense, sell, or resell the whole or any part of the E-learning courses and education resources or its contents. You may not reproduce, transmit, distribute, or use the E-learning courses and education resources or the content or other data or materials incorporated in the E-learning courses and education resources without the OSC's permission. You may not commingle any portion of the E-learning courses and education resources with any other information and shall not edit, modify, or alter any portion.

A photograph of several children sitting at wooden desks in a classroom. One boy in the foreground is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and has his hand raised. Other children are visible in the background, some wearing colorful shirts. The image is partially obscured by a large orange triangle on the right and a dark grey circle on the top left.

PROMOTING RS4K IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

HOW DO I PROMOTE THE RS4K RESOURCES IN MY BOARD/SCHOOL?

To assist with promoting the resources to educators in your Board we have created a [digital media kit](#) where you can download posters and info about the program.

ACCESSING THE ROADSMARTS E-CADEMY (E-LEARNING COURSES)



WHAT IS THE ROADSMARTS4KIDS E-CADEMY?

Our RoadSMARTS E-cademy is a suite of e-learning courses that contain important road safety information for students JK–Grade 6. We have recommended the target age group for each course however, even the courses geared at younger students contain information that is a good reminder to older students. Each course takes between 30-60 minutes to complete.

The RoadSMARTS E-cademy Courses feature:

- A suite of e-learning courses for students JK-Grade 6 that cover pedestrians, cycling and booster seat safety.
- Targeted to age group (JK-2, Grade 3-4, Grade 5-6)
- Each course takes between 30–60 minutes to complete.
- Pre and Post Course Quizzes test students' knowledge
- Students have full interaction with course and earn points
- Teacher can download personalized certificate upon course completion
- E-learners must have their own devices (i.e., lap-top) and internet access*
- E-learners log into the [SmarterU e-learning system](#) and interact with and complete the course
- Teachers/parents can create a roster of accounts for students/children without email addresses.



WHAT IS SMARTERU LEARNING MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?

SmarterU LMS is a learning management system that allows people to log in and take e-learning courses, quizzes and track their progress. The RoadSMARTS E-cademy courses are housed in the SmarterU LMS system.

Therefore, to access and take the courses, learners must create SmarterU accounts, which can be done through the [RS4K website](#).

WILL MINE AND MY STUDENTS/ CHILDREN'S DATA BE KEPT PRIVATE?

Yes – all information collected through the RS4K platform is subject to our Privacy Policy.

To view our Privacy Policy visit:

ottawasafetycouncil.ca/privacy-policy/

To review SmarterU's Privacy policy visit:

www.smarteru.com/legal/privacy-policy

We do not require any personal information to be collected from students or youth for them to access the resources or the e-learning courses.



HOW DO I AND MY STUDENTS ACCESS THE E-LEARNING COURSES?

How students, teachers and parents access the resources and e-learning courses has been given a lot of consideration. Elementary age students do not have email addresses, so creating accounts in order to access the e-learning software system has to be done in a creative way. We feel that parents would not want their children signing up and registering for things on their own or being directed to do so by a teacher.

- **Registration through the RS4K Webpage:** To download the resources and access the e-learning courses, we have set up registration pages on the OSC's [RS4K website](#). These registration pages also collect key metrics such as how many students will be receiving the lessons, what grade they are in and teacher contact information in order to send links to follow-up satisfaction surveys afterwards.
- Teachers can [download the lesson plans and supporting material](#) through the RS4K webpage and also [sign themselves up for an e-learning account](#) and enroll in the courses using their own email if they want to review material before they deliver it to their students.
- **Creating Student "Rosters" of accounts to access E-learning Courses:** To create student e-learning accounts, filling out the ["student roster" form](#) will generate unique ID's and a standard password for log-in purposes.

Teachers can register on the RS4K website to generate a roster of however many Unique IDs they need (i.e., create accounts for 25 students) to allow every student to log in from their own chromebook/laptop and take the courses. Parents can also do the same for their own kids if they want them to do the courses outside of class. Teachers may also direct parents to sign their students up this way if a teacher does not want to use the roster method.

- **Logging Students into the RS4K E-cademy:** Teachers registering students using the roster method, will receive an email with all of their students unique ID's to sign in. They then simply note and share the unique IDs and passwords with their students when it comes time to log in and do the courses. We use a standard password for everyone (roadsmarts) to prevent issues with students losing their unique password and not being able to log in when it comes time to do the course.

MY STUDENTS DON'T HAVE EMAIL ADDRESSES, HOW DO I CREATE ACCOUNTS FOR THEM?

We have set the system up so that email addresses are not needed to create e-learning accounts and access the e-learning courses. To create student e-learning accounts, filling out the **"student roster" form** will generate unique ID's and a standard password for log-in purposes. Teachers can register on the RS4K website to generate a roster of however many Unique IDs they need (i.e., create accounts for 25 students) to allow every student to log in from their own chromebook/laptop and take the courses. Parents can also do the same for their own kids if they want them to do the courses outside of class. Teachers may also direct parents to sign their students up this way if a teacher does not want to use the roster method.

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NOT ALL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, HOW CAN THEY TAKE THE E-LEARNING COURSES?

For classes with limited resources in terms of desktop computers and laptops – we suggest the following:

- Pair students up as teams to take the course (if you have computers, just not enough for each student)
- Assign the courses as homework to do at home (if all students have access to a computer at home)
- Present the “Teachers versions” of the course: We have created versions of all of the courses for presentation to a class using a smart board/with a projector.

The Teachers version of the courses feature a hamburger menu to toggle between topics and ability to replay slides. These versions of the courses also contain a “tips” icons for teachers to click on. Tips are suggested ways to engage students in the material along the way (i.e., pause the course and have students get up and practice the 5 steps to crossing the street). To request enrollment in a Teachers version of an RS4K E-cademy course contact

Kelly.banks@ottawasafetycouncil.ca

THE SMARTERU E-LEARNING SOFTWARE WON'T LOAD ON SCHOOL COMPUTERS, WHAT DO I DO?

Some school boards require that software be approved at the Board level before use in the classroom. We encourage to you reach out to your school boards technology department if this is the case.

The Ottawa Safety Council can also provide details of the materials covered in the courses and the SmarterU system to your school boards if required. To request this information feel free to contact

Kelly.banks@ottawasafetycouncil.ca

IMPACTFUL LEARNING

HOW DO I ENHANCE THE LESSONS?

We have also created a resource library within the LMS for teachers. Once logged into SmarterU, teachers can access the resource library from their dashboard. These resources include:

- Ways to enhance courses (ie. CycleSafe 1 – have students bring their helmets to class and make sure they fit along with Blinker)
- Other follow-up activities that teachers can deliver to their class for the purpose of retention – (ie. Use a google map to pick the safest route to walk somewhere then go on a walk, create a PSA about the danger of distraction etc.)
- Course Completion Certificates that can be personalized for each student (since their names are not in the LMS)
- A “How to use these courses” section which contains tips on creating a roster of accounts etc.

