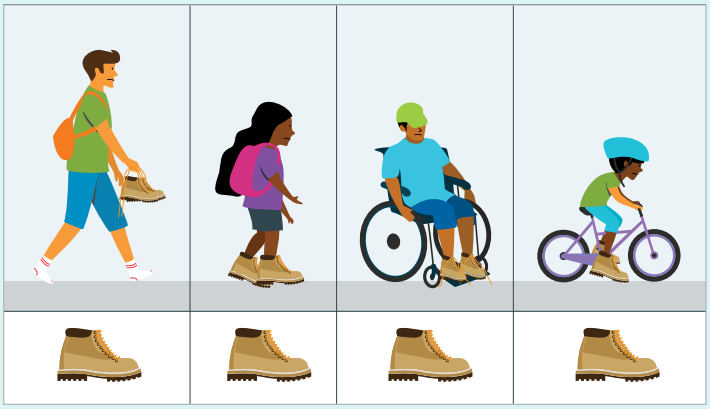
TIP SHEET

EQUITY STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOLS

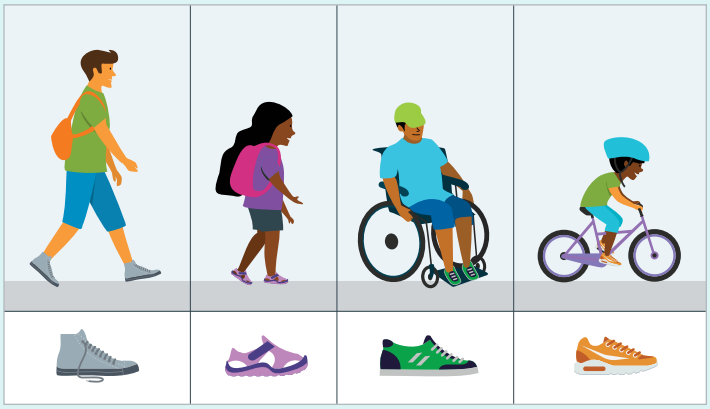
Equity is the core of the comprehensive Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. The Program prioritizes safe, active, and healthy opportunities for public elementary and middle school students regardless of ability, socio-economic status, race, or culture. This tip sheet will help schools identify and build safety and accessibility strategies that will benefit all students.

EQUITY VS. EQUALITY: Understanding the difference can *make all the difference.*

Equality is treating everyone the same.



Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful.



EDUCATION

LESS ····> INVOLVEMENT ····> MORE

BEGINNER

- Include students of all abilities in annual SRTS safety trainings, including tactile pad and beg button use
- Share SRTS safety flyers with students and families



INTERMEDIATE

- Include all district elementary and/or middle schools in annual SRTS safety trainings
- Include parents/guardians and student volunteers to help provide safety instruction
- Employ SRTS videos and virtual lessons to augment in-person instruction
- Explore local ped/bike concerns with your students and focus on infrastructure, behavior, or location. An example is how to safely navigate railroad crossings

ADVANCED

- Adopt SRTS pedestrian and bicycle safety lessons into K-8 Health and Wellness curriculum
- Host a district-wide professional development session to train your teachers on the SRTS curriculum
- Use interpreters when holding community events, such as Bike Rodeos or Wellness Fairs
- Participate in SRTS webinars and other annual events



EVALUATION

LESS ····> INVOLVEMENT ····> MORE

BEGINNER

- Conduct a Parent/Guardian Travel Survey. It is available online and on paper in nine different languages
- Aim for 50% or higher survey participation rate to earn the school safety award package
- SRTS can provide promotional language for principal newsletters
- Develop a walking/biking route map from the survey data

INTERMEDIATE

- Conduct a Parent/Guardian Travel Survey in all elementary and/or middle schools in the district
- Share this data with local school administration
- Develop district-wide walking/biking route maps from survey or student address data

ADVANCED

- Conduct a Parent/Guardian Travel Survey in all K-8 schools every 2-3 years. This provides data to observe trends and gauge SRTS program effectiveness
- Share this data with local school administration and municipal staff
- Collaborate with local pedestrian/bicycle committees and planning departments to develop a community-wide walking/biking route map

ENCOURAGEMENT

LESS → INVOLVEMENT → MORE

BEGINNER

- Participate in SRTS's three annual flagship events
- SRTS can provide promotional language for principal newsletters
- Work with your SRTS Coordinator to modify these events if walking/biking is not an option
- Participate in SRTS's Yard Sign Contest to further encourage students to learn about safety

INTERMEDIATE

- Consider hosting monthly walking/biking events
- Use SRTS's library of no-cost/low-cost ideas to make the events fun for all ages
- Use route maps to develop Walking School Buses, Bike Trains, and Park and Walk locations
- Have bussed and driven students meet at select locations on flagship days so everyone can participate
- Have faculty and staff participate district-wide on flagship days

ADVANCED

- All K-8 schools participate in regular walking/biking days
- Partner with community organizations and police departments when organizing Walking School Buses, Bike Trains, and flagship events
- Submit local newspaper articles or social media pieces celebrating the school district's great work promoting active transportation

ENGINEERING

LESS → INVOLVEMENT → MORE

BEGINNER

- Create an arrival and dismissal plan that includes all types of travel to school
- Adopt arrival/dismissal report recommendations and implement based on the 6 E's
- Re-examine the location of special education vans and handicapped parking
- Join the DEP Green Team to get anti-idling signage and education materials for the school

INTERMEDIATE

- Host a walk audit with community and school stakeholders to examine neighborhood access
- Adopt and implement the walk audit report's recommendations based on the 6 E's
- Create separation of transportation modes in school zones
- Identify funding for projects and use the SRTS reports and travel surveys to support the application(s)

ADVANCED

- Provide adequate infrastructure for walking and biking at all schools, including bike racks, crosswalk locations, and pedestrian plazas
- Strive for ADA compliance for all crosswalks
- Collaborate with Department of Public Works and School Facilities on snow removal around school zone crosswalks and sidewalks



ENGAGEMENT

LESS → INVOLVEMENT → MORE

BEGINNER

- Communicate the arrival/dismissal plan through multiple channels, including website and school newsletters
- Utilize SRTS crossing guard training materials
- Participate in the SRTS annual Crossing Guard Appreciation day

INTERMEDIATE

- Develop an annual SRTS strategic plan with your Outreach Coordinator
- Invite local police to participate in SRTS bike assemblies to discuss local challenges and successes

ADVANCED

- Invite police and other community groups to participate in bike rodeos
- Form a taskforce to build a sustainable and inclusive SRTS program
- Utilize SRTS crossing guard training materials district-wide

Consider having your school district adopt active transportation amendments on walking, biking, and related infrastructure to your Wellness policy.

RESOURCES

Click on an "E" to access resources on the SRTS website.

E EQUITY | E EDUCATION | E ENCOURAGEMENT | E EVALUATION | E ENGAGEMENT | E ENGINEERING





MASSACHUSETTS Safe Routes to School
MASS.GOV/SAFE-ROUTES-TO-SCHOOL