

# High School Programming

## CASE STUDY

## Somerville High School

EDUCATION ENCOURAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION ENGINEERING EQUITY | **URBAN** RURAL SUBURBAN

### Background

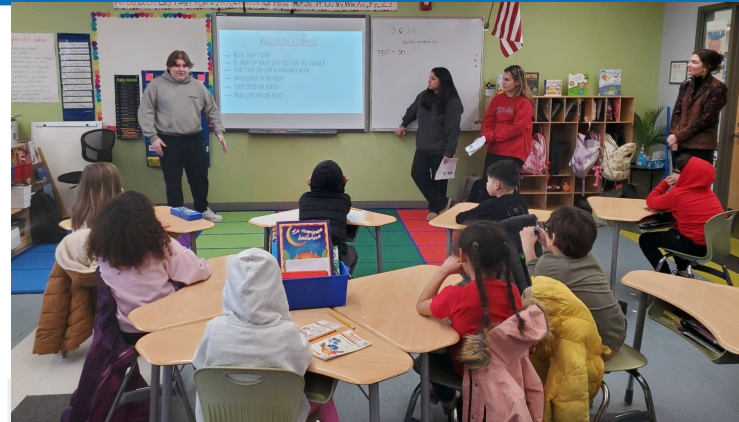
In early 2022, new federal funding extended the eligibility of Safe Routes (SRTS) to School partnerships to include high schools (grades 9-12). In the last few years, the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program has added events, materials, and opportunities exclusively for high school students, such as the Safe Streets Smart Trips High School Video Contest, the High School Ambassador Program, Car-Free-Campus Day, and more.

### Overview

Somerville Public Schools has been in a longstanding partnership with SRTS. In 2019, a team of Somerville municipal and district staff members offered pedestrian safety sessions to all second-grade classrooms. In 2022, the team realized that they would need additional instructors. The District Wellness Coordinator and the Office of Food Access & Healthy Communities then collaborated with the instructors at Somerville High School's Center for Career and Technical Education in the Early Education and Care Program about the possibility of having 11th and 12th grade students assist in the pedestrian safety classes. This student-led instruction was seen as a win-win as these high school students were already working in the elementary schools and were now able to work with SRTS in developing a long-term pedestrian safety curriculum.

### Lessons Learned

- ✓ The district obtained their goal of sustainability with the adoption of the SRTS Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)-approved pedestrian curriculum
- ✓ The district achieved their equity goal by ensuring all students within the grade level received the same programming



### Impacts



Strengthen presentation, public speaking, and teaching skills



Deepen soon-to-be drivers' understanding of pedestrian safety while helping to fill a district need



Develop strong inter-school and inter-departmental relationships