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What is Massachusetts Safe Routes to School?

The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program is a federally funded initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) that encourages elementary and middle school students to safely walk and bike to/from school. The Program provides a variety of free services to all interested public and charter schools via designated outreach coordinators who work with the school administration, key stakeholders, and organizations within each partner community. SRTS outreach coordinators provide technical assistance with events including but not limited to pedestrian and bike safety trainings, bike rodeos, arrival/dismissal observations, and walk assessments. Furthermore, the SRTS Program offers marketing and promotional materials to school partners.

Partner Levels

Partner schools can measure the growth and sustainability of their local SRTS programs through Basic, Bronze, Silver, and Gold level achievements.*

- Partner schools earn points by completing various tasks in a school year
- Each task is assigned a point value
- The cumulative score at the end of the school year determines partner level

Alliance Partnership

Community organizations that wish to support local and/or statewide SRTS efforts may formally collaborate with the SRTS Program through an Alliance Partnership.*

- No cost to join the Alliance Partnership
- Unique opportunity to provide resources or services that help schools and communities to encourage and enable more students to walk, bike, and roll to school safely
- Eligible for recognition at the annual SRTS Awards Ceremony

^{*}The School Partner Enrollment Form, Partner Profile Levels Form, and the Alliance Partnership Form are included in the Appendix.







EQUITY

Equity is built into every aspect of the SRTS Program and fosters inclusion of all members of the school community by distributing SRTS resources fairly. All E's work together and with some overlap for a comprehensive and systemic approach to creating a sustainable cultural shift.

NON-INFRASTRUCTURE

EQUITY ENCOURAGEMENT EDUCATION

ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

ENGINEERING

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Six E's

Because the Commonwealth is comprised of a variety of regions, SRTS services are thoughtfully customized to fit the needs of each partner school, its student population, and the local neighborhood. In an ongoing quest for greater inclusivity, the SRTS Program strives to implement a collaborative, community-focused approach that bridges the gap between health and transportation. The six E's of the SRTS Program serve to guide these statewide efforts.















Education offers the tools students need to be smart, safe pedestrians and bicyclists through a combination of training sessions, school assemblies, and workshops.

Bike Safety Education

Bike Rodeo

Recommended age group(s): 3rd-7th grades

A fun way to teach the rules of the road via a "simulated neighborhood environment" course that features information stations for skills practice.

Bike Safety Training

Recommended age group(s): 4th-8th grades

SRTS outreach coordinators teach bike safety at partner schools through classroom sessions and school assemblies. These trainings explain:

- The rules of the road
- Why and how to properly wear a helmet
- Best clothing ("bright & tight")
- Simple bicycle maintenance
- Benefits of biking

Train the Trainer Workshops

Recommended age group(s): Adult

A sample performance run-through is used to show interested faculty members how to lead bike safety education lessons.

Pedestrian Safety Education

Pedestrian Safety Training is an interactive way to practice safe walking in half hour sessions led by trained instructors/volunteers— usually parents and school staff— who demonstrate sidewalk safety, crosswalk safety, and parking lot safety. SRTS offers two models:

Student Mentor Model

Recommended age group(s): At least 4th grade

Older, mature, and responsible students are trained to lead a pedestrian safety session at an adult-supervised location on the school campus. In order to become mentors, students must demonstrate solid understanding of:

- Entire safety training session process
- All discussed pedestrian safety skills

Adult Mentor Model

Recommended age group(s): Adults, particularly parents, guardians, and school staff

Adults are trained via sample performance run-through to lead pedestrian safety sessions at their schools and in their communities.

Hosting pedestrian and bike safety training at school benefits everyone!

- All students learn how to act when they encounter similar scenarios in the real world
- Younger students develop participation skills
- Older students build leadership skills
- Parents/guardians are inspired to become involved

Hosting bike safety training virtually is a great way to support students learning from home.

 Classes can be taught online through your school's perferred digital platform



- Involve special education professionals to help your school plan fun, inclusive events for all students, including those with mobility impairments and developmental disabilities.
- Include students of all ability levels in SRTS trainings. This may mean modifying events or establishing park and walk locations for various walk and bike days/events.



Instructional Resources

Middle School Lesson Plans

Recommended age group(s): 6th grade

A total of six lesson plans—two English, two Math, and two Social Studies—that meet the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework and highlight active transportation as a safe, viable, and fun way for students to travel to school.

- English Lessons: Look at persuasive and expository writing styles and explore the difference between plot and theme
- Math Lessons: Focus on gear ratios and the formulations of mathematical expressions
- Social Studies Lessons: Compare the U.S. and European school transportation scenarios along with corresponding health outcomes

Pedestrian Safety Curriculum

Recommended age group(s): 2nd grade

Three consecutive lessons designed for use by health and physical education teachers to develop students' pedestrian safety skills.

- Lessons one and two focus on safe walking and street-crossing strategies
- Lesson three features an outdoor practice session

Stepping Out to Summer Workshops

Recommended age group(s): Kindergarten-8th grades

These summer activities maintain SRTS momentum during summer vacation months. Age-appropriate trivia, pedestrian safety training, and bike safety training events engage and educate students on the health and environmental benefits of active transportation.

Middle School Resource Guide

Recommended age group(s): 6th-8th grades

Provides resources and opportunities for middle school students to get excited about safe walking and biking activities through increasing their individual knowledge and practice of safe transportation behaviors.

More information is available on the MA SRTS website. Contact your outreach coordinator to request trainings, workshops, toolkits, or lesson plans.







Encouragement builds student excitement about active transportation through safe walk, bike, and roll days as well as in-school activities. Planning school and community events is essential to involving both students and adults in the SRTS Program.

Annual Flagship Events

The Massachusetts SRTS Program hosts three flagships events each school year:

- International Walk to School Day on the first Wednesday of October
- Winter Walk to School Day on the first Wednesday of February
- Massachusetts Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day on the first Wednesday of May







Winter
Walk to
School Day



Massachusetts Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day

Participating in these events is a great way to get students excited about active transportation.

Ongoing Events

In addition to flagship days, schools can create their own events or activities to get students moving:

Bicycle Train: Adult-supervised bike ride on a predetermined route to and/or from school.

- Hands-on way for students to hone bike safety skills
- Schools can designate formal drop-off/pick-up sites to involve students who live farther away
- Customizable schedule (daily, weekly, monthly)



Park and Walk: Students and adult volunteers park at an off-campus location and walk, bike, or roll the remaining distance to school. Meeting location should include a spacious parking lot to allow participants to park their vehicles while safely forming walking group(s), bike train(s), etc.

(e.g. Walking Wednesdays, Footloose Fridays)

- Inclusive option for students with mobility impairments
- May reduce traffic congestion near the school
- Customizable schedule (daily, weekly, monthly)

Walking School Bus: Adult-supervised walk on a predetermined route to and/or from school. Routes can originate in a specific neighborhood, park, parking lot, etc.

- Fun way to practice safe pedestrian skills
- Customizable schedule (daily, weekly, monthly)

Additional In-School Activities: Merging Physical Fitness with Academics

Walk Across America/Walk Across Massachusetts:

Maps of the USA or Massachusetts, provided by SRTS to partner schools upon request, allow students to chart out their daily walked miles to see how far they travel over time.

Walk at School: Teacher-led classes around the school campus (indoor or outdoor) to promote active transportation.

Yard Sign Design Contest: Held every March, this contest empowers students to tap into their creativity in an effort to actively promote safe roads for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the Commonwealth. Winning designs are made into sandwich board signs for outdoor display around schools, delivered by SRTS upon request while supplies last.



- Promote your events and encouragement programs schoolwide. Include information in multiple languages, as applicable to your school community.
- Not all families can access the Internet regularly.
 Communicate online, via paper, and in-person.



Adult Activities: Lifelong Learning

Forums: SRTS hosts free half-day learning sessions twice each year for members of the SRTS community to discuss relevant topics, receive resource updates, and connect with other SRTS communities. Participants leave with new information and tools for starting, maintaining, and improving local SRTS programs.

SRTS Summit: Annual introductory workshop hosted by SRTS at a specific school that aims to educate about building community ownership in local SRTS programs. Each workshop provides an interactive experience for attendees to assess conditions around the school, identify barriers to walking and biking, and brainstorm potential solutions.

Webinars: At least once per year, SRTS hosts webinars on various SRTS topics. Each webinar is geared toward adults who are who are involved in their local SRTS efforts.

SRTS Taskforce Formation: SRTS offers assistance with the formation of a community SRTS taskforces, specifically in terms of bringing together representatives from schools, parent teacher organizations, law enforcement, public works, health department, local planning, and others to strategize and implement sustainable, community-based SRTS programs.







Surveys

Parent Travel Survey: Helps to gauge how and where students travel to/from school via three minute online or paper format (available in nine languages) completed by parents/guardians. Results show:

- Average distance students travel to/from school
- Number of students living within walking or biking distance of the school
- Estimated annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions released by single occupancy vehicles used to drive students to/from school

Schools that achieve a parent travel survey response rate of 50 percent or higher will receive an incentive.

Student Travel Tally: Gathers information directly from students about how they travel to/from school over the course of three days. Results help to measure success of the local SRTS efforts.

Assessments/Observations

Walkability and Bikeability Assessment: Examine the outdoor surroundings of a school to identify or study the route(s) that students walk to/from school. During an SRTS-led assessment, participants:

- Observe and document safety and accessibility issues
- Note how drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists interact with one another and the built environment
- Experience pedestrian and biking conditions firsthand
- Share perspectives on current situation
- Build consensus about next steps

Arrival/Dismissal Observation: Look at a school's immediate environment and surroundings during arrival and dismissal. This is a critical data collection step toward gaining a clear overview of student, parent/guardian, and staff behavior during an often hazardous time. During an SRTS-led observation, the following is reviewed:

- Overview of current school conditions
- Travel mode split
- Crossing guard utilization
- Rule violation and adherence to arrival/dismissal policies
- Identification of high conflict areas

All final results are presented via a formal SRTS assessment or observation report.





Walkshed Maps

SRTS creates two versions of walkshed maps for schools:

- Based on the Parent Travel Survey results, a walkshed map is featured in the last page of the corresponding survey report
- A walkshed map can be requested without a survey if an anonymous (no names) student address and zip code spreadsheet is submitted to SRTS. This is often a quick, useful first step in selecting potential walking or biking route(s) prior to a walkability or bikeability assessment.

Data from these maps can help focus local SRTS efforts.



- Reach out to key stakeholders to help spark change in the school community.
- Utilize SRTS evaluations methods regularly to help focus your SRTS efforts.





SRTS partners with stakeholders including bike/ped committees, school/district task forces, and local law enforcement officials to promote engagement with the local community to support proper walking and bicycling behaviors.

Community Organizations

Community-led organizations provide an extra set of hands for coordination and communications of SRTS activities. Both schools and the SRTS Program lean on these community organizations to engage in SRTS taskforces, help with bike and pedestrian safety education, and support infrastructure projects. Some examples include:

- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Municipal Recreation Departments
- Bike/Ped Committees
- Neighborhood Associations
- Parent/Teacher Associations
- Religious Organizations
- Tribal/Cultural Organizations
- Community Centers

Law Enforcement Agencies

Local law enforcement agencies can help maintain SRTS programs in many ways, including:

- Enforcing speed limits and yielding to pedestrians
- Encouraging use of crosswalks
- Limiting vehicle idling
- Providing daily or periodic police presence during school hours
- Educating the community about rules of the road, traffic violations, pedestrian rights, and school zones

School Resource Officers are assigned to schools to help with specialized concerns such as bullying, safety, and security. They can offer solutions to traffic problems on or near the campus.

Crossing Guards are trained to control traffic so students can walk or bike to school safely.

School Transportation Policy

Schools can implement a transportation policy to decrease student drop-off by single occupancy vehicle. Such a policy helps to reduce emissions around the school while also creating a safer walking and biking environment. SRTS outreach coordinators can assist your school or school district in developing a transportation policy.

Resources

SRTS Crossing Guard Training Guide and Video provide recommendations and trainings for crossing guard safety. Materials can be adopted in full as a stand-alone training model or as a supplement to existing trainings. Both the guide and video are available on the MA SRTS website.

Policy guidance and **Taskforce** formation guidance are also available on the MA SRTS website.





- Consult the Massachusetts Complete Streets website for strategies to improve accessibility for all modes.
- Review Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for strategies to improve accessibility for all modes.



Engineering facilitates bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements to allow more students to walk, bike, or roll to school.

Assessments of existing infrastructure and barriers to safe walking and biking may increase support for new or improved infrastructure.

Infrastructure Improvements

The following infrastructure improvements are listed in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s SRTS Program Legislation and Program Guidance documents as eligible for SRTS funding. There may be other eligible infrastructure projects that are not listed here.

Sidewalk improvements: New sidewalks, sidewalk widening, sidewalk gap closures, sidewalk repairs, sidewalk buffer zones, curbs, gutters, curb ramps, and American with Disabilities (ADA) improvements.

Traffic calming and speed reduction improvements:

Roundabouts, bulb-outs, speed humps, raised crossings, raised intersections, median refuges, narrowed traffic lanes, lane reductions, full- or half-street closures, automated speed enforcement, variable speed limits, and signal timing.

Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements:

Crossings, median refuges, raised crossings, raised intersections, traffic control devices, new or upgraded traffic signals, pavement markings, traffic stripes, crossing lights, flashing beacons, bicycle-sensitive signal actuation devices, pedestrian countdown signals, feedback signs, dynamic speed signs, pedestrian activated signal upgrades, and sight distance improvements.

On-street bicycle facilities: New or upgraded bicycle lanes, widened outside lanes or roadway shoulders or advisory bike lanes, bike boulevards, geometric improvements, turning lanes, channelization and roadway realignment, traffic signs, and pavement markings.

Off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities:

Separated/protected multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trails and pathways.

Secure bicycle parking facilities: Bicycle parking racks, bicycle lockers, designated areas with safety, lighting, and covered bicycle shelters.

Traffic diversion improvements: Separation of pedestrians and bicycles from vehicular traffic adjacent to school zones or designated routes to a school.

SRTS Infrastructure Application Program: The Massachusetts SRTS Program provides a competitive funding program for eligible infrastructure projects. Projects must be within two miles of a school in the public right-of-way or along publicly-accessible bikeways and pedestrian pathways and trails. Schools and communities that participate in the SRTS Program may pursue funding when available. As of 2019, a total of 28 projects have been completed and more are scheduled. Resources and information about applying for SRTS Infrastructure funding are available in the Engineering section of the SRTS website.

SRTS Signs and Lines Program: The Signs and Lines Program was piloted during the 2018-2019 school year in one community and we anticipate launching it formally during the 2019-2020 school year. This Program provides up to \$10,000 to selected municipalities for low-cost



infrastructure projects around public elementary or middle schools, with projects to be completed within the specified year. Eligible costs may include:

- Engineering design
- Purchase and installation of new M.U.T.C.D. signage
- Installation of new pavement markings
- Eradication of existing signage and pavement markings
- Other low-cost improvements as approved by MassDOT

When fully launched, this Program may involve an additional competitive application process. Any municipality that is granted a project will be required to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with MassDOT detailing the terms of the project and funding. The Program components will include a walk audit, project recommendations, a design sheet, a bid package (if applicable), and reimbursement to the municipality for associated costs of implementing the planned improvements.



SRTS PROGRAM FOCUS ON EQUITY

- SRTS provides educational materials in various languages and has helped communities reach more people through certified translators. Let us know what your school needs.
- SRTS Parent Travel Surveys are available in nine languages, both online and via paper format. Schools that reach at least 50 percent participation rate will receive a \$250 mini grant. Contact us to get started.
- SRTS provides education to ALL ability levels and skill sets. This includes offering guidance on available resources for students who are unable to walk or ride a traditional bicycle.
- Distance or safety may prevent students from utilizing active transportation modes today, but circumstances change and these barriers may not always exist. Therefore, SRTS includes all students in educational activities.
- SRTS collaborates with a range of Alliance
 Partners and community advocates to reach
 schools in low income areas, in areas where
 resources are less available, and in areas
 where active transportation is challenging to
 implement. Let SRTS customize a strategy for
 your school.

Appendix

What is SRTS?

School Partner Enrollment Form

Partnering with Massachusetts Safe Routes to School signifies your commitment to help your students walk and bike safely to and from school.

The benefits of a partnership include technical assistance in designing, implementing, marketing, and evaluating initiatives tailored to each school's needs and priorities. School Partners also receive free educational and promotional materials.

Yes! We want to be a part of the Massachusetts SRTS program, and be recognized for the strides our school and community are taking toward reducing congestion, air pollution, and traffic near our school, to increase safety, health and physical activity of students.*

School	
Name	
Signature	Date//
Number of Students Enrolled	
Primary Contact	
Position	
Address	
Email	
Phone	
Secondary Contact	
Position	
Address	
Email	
EmailPhone	

*When you become a Safe Routes to School Partner, your school's program engagement will be accessible on our SRTS Dashboard. This is a great way to view participation, activities, and more. Plus, you can get ideas for your school by checking out what other Partner Schools across the Commonwealth are doing.







The SRTS team, partner schools, stakeholders, and MassDOT officials celebrate at the Massachusetts SRTS Award Ceremony, held at the Massachusetts State House in Boston.

Please indicate the stakeholders that will participate in the Safe Routes program.

- □ Principal
- □ Parents

- School staff
- □ Safety/Police officer
- ☐ Local health department
- □ Other _____

Questions? Your SRTS Outreach Coordinator is here to help:

888-426-6688

www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school



RESOURCES

What Does it Mean to Join the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Alliance?

The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program creates sustainable and comprehensive walking and biking programs with our School Partners and their communities. The creation of strong partnerships with community, governmental and non-profit organizations with similar missions and causes are vital to fulfilling this goal.

The SRTS Alliance is a consortium of local, state and national organizations with a focus on safety, health and wellness, physical activity or the environment as it pertains to children, families and/or the surrounding school district(s).

Alliance members reinforce and supplement the work of the SRTS program by providing additional resources to elementary and middle school students through volunteering at events, promoting the program's successes and activities in publications, and through the donation of promotional items.

/ ixa

Examples of Alliance Members Include:

- YMCA employees act as volunteers during walk/bike to school days or through walking clubs at School Partner locations.
- A national organization, such as NFL Fuel Up to Play 60, promotes SRTS as a healthy physical activity.
- Town pedestrian and bicycle committees feature SRTS in their monthly newsletter.
- Local law enforcement departments have a presence at busy intersections when children are walking or bicycling to school.
- Local health departments share resources and expertise on children's health to their local Safe Routes program.

If you would like to join the SRTS Alliance, please submit the application. Upon receipt and review, a member of the SRTS staff will contact you. Once your application has been accepted, we will highlight the partnership on the SRTS website, allowing School Partners and current Alliance members to connect and support one another in our shared missions.





Massachusetts SRTS Outreach Coordinators collaborate with Mass in Motion programs across the state, including Mass in Motion New Bedford.



The Massachusetts Safety Officers League (MSOL) is one of several organizations in the SRTS Alliance.

Questions? Your SRTS Outreach Coordinator is here to help.

Massachusetts SRTS 1.888-426-6688 www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school







/IA Safe Routes to School Alliance Application

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program in your community? Submit this application to be a part of the Massachusetts SRTS Alliance. Alliance Members can be local or statewide community, government or non-profit organizations with a focus on safety, health & wellness or the environment as it pertains to children, families and the surrounding school districts. Your organization will collaborate with the SRTS Team to encourage walking and bicycling, serving as a resource for elementary and middle School Partners. Alliance Members will be featured on our website and promoted through our School Partnerships and SRTS marketing efforts.

Tell us about yourself and your organization:

Contact							
Title							
Phone							
Email							
Organization							
Address							
Website							
How are you currently and/or how would you like to participate in the Massachusetts SRTS Alliance? Please check all that apply: Currently Would like to							
		Share and publicize SRTS program news and events					
		Join or support the SRTS Task Force in your community					
		Volunteer at SRTS event(s)					
		Provide donations or underwrite materials for students					
		Provide information/expertise to School Partners or SRTS staff					
		Other? (please provide details)					





By signing below, we agree to become a member of the Massachusetts SRTS Alliance.

Organization Representative

Date

Submit application via email to Emily.Budzynkiewicz@aecom.com or fax to 857.368.0656

Questions? Your SRTS Outreach Coordinator is here to h

Massachusetts SRTS 1.888-426-6688 www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school





Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Award Certificate Activity Checklist

To receive your school's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) partner level award certificate for the school year, check off each completed task below and email or fax this form to us (see bottom, left). Not only is this a smart way to document your SRTS participation, but your school will also become eligible to receive an Honor Roll Award at the annual Massachusetts SRTS Awards Ceremony.

Please note: "*" indicates the corresponding task was completed at least once in the past three years.

- ☐ Assign a contact to serve as school's SRTS liaison
- ☐ Complete an annual SRTS partnership plan (with your Outreach Coordinator)
- ☐ Follow Massachusetts SRTS on Social Media
- ☐ Market SRTS programs and resources in school and/or family newsletters and on school website
- Attend at least one SRTS workshop, forum, or webinar
- ☐ Utilize Mapping Services* (work with SRTS on zip code maps and/or route maps)
- ☐ Conduct Walking/Biking Assessment*
- ☐ Conduct Arrival/Dismissal Observation*
- ☐ Use Walking School Bus support from SRTS
- ☐ Participate in summer programs
- ☐ Hold a pedestrian safety training
- ☐ Hold a bike safety training
- ☐ Participate in the Yard Sign Contest
- ☐ International Walk and Roll to School Day (iWalk)
- ☐ Winter Walk to School Day
- ☐ Massachusetts Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day
- Participate in a pedestrian mentor training
- Host a monthly walk/bike to school day during the school year
- Participate in Walk Across America/Massachusetts
- Organize/Continue at least one Park and Walk or remote drop-off location
- ☐ Host a walking club
- ☐ Participate in Photovoice (students documenting walking/biking barriers)
- Attend at least two SRTS workshops, forums, or webinars
- ☐ Host a bike rodeo
- Participate in a school active transportation task force

School	Name
--------	------

Street Address

City/Town and Zip

County

Contact Name

Email Address

Phone Number

- ☐ Include SRTS pedestrian safety in your curriculum
- ☐ Include SRTS bike safety in your curriculum
- ☐ Include Sixth Grade Lesson Plans in your curriculum
- Host a weekly walk/bike to school day throughout the school year
- ☐ Participate in a community active transportation task force
- Organize/Continue at least one Walking School
 Bus
- ☐ Organize/Continue at least one Bike Train
- ☐ Involve your school resource officer or local community groups in safety trainings and/or walk/bike to school events
- ☐ Conduct a parent/guardian travel survey or student Travel Talley
- Add/Maintain SRTS initiatives into your health/wellness and/or transportation policies
- Add/Update SRTS-related policies and procedure on your school website (health/wellness policies and/or arrival/dismissal procedures)

Basic:

3-9

Points

Bronze: 10-19 Points

Silver: 20-29 Points

Gold: 30+ Points

Please fax your forms to 857.368.0656 Or Email to Diane.Hanson@aecom.com



5 Points Each







