Promoting Health and Safety through Safe Routes to School

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Roadmap

- Safe Routes to School Overview
- Collaborating with Mass in Motion
- Participatory Learning – Lawn Sign Contest
- Crossing Guard Safety Materials
• Provide Pedestrian and Bike Safety Trainings to students, grades K-8

• Partner with 53% of schools across the Commonwealth

• Develop walking and biking routes to school

• Federally-funded infrastructure projects
Safe Routes to School Partners

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
SRTS Partners

778 Partner Schools
201 Communities
358,000+ students
Collaborate with Mass in Motion

- Mass in Motion is a Department of Public Health Program
- Share community information and best practices
- Complement each other’s programs
- Focus on health disparities
- Inclusion of individuals with disabilities
Including Students with Disabilities

- Children with disabilities are more likely to rely on walking and biking to live independently later in life.

- Children with disabilities have higher rates of obesity compared to non-disabled children.

**Strategies**

- Community Health Inclusion Index
- Training for staff
- Use inclusive marketing materials
Lawn Sign Contest

• Opportunity for students to participate in statewide contest

• Open to elementary and middle school students

• Winning signs distributed across the state
Winning Lawn Signs
Crossing Guard Safety

- Identified need from working in communities
- Inconsistent training and resources across Commonwealth
- Developed written guidance
- Video training in the works!
Do Your Part to Make Crossing the Street Safer!

Our driving impacts not only safety your children and their friends can get to and from school. Whether school children walk, bike, or get dropped off, you play a key role in their safety. Please keep these in mind as you’re out in your community:

1. **Follow the directions given by crossing guards.** Crossing guards will use hand signals and their STOP paddles to indicate when drivers need to stop to allow students to cross the street.

2. **Be aware of children’s small size.** Children can be blocked from view by buses, cars, and even snowbanks.

3. **Obey speed limits.** The school zone speed limit in Massachusetts is 20 MPH.

4. **Reduce speed when approaching a crosswalk.** Even the intersection to make sure there are no children approaching the crosswalk or crossing.

5. **Yield at crosswalks.** Massachusetts law states that drivers must yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk when one is crossing the street or is within 10 feet of crossing the street.

6. **Do not pass other vehicles stopped at a crosswalk.**

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Crossing Guard Reference

massDOT Safe Routes to School

2017 MOVING TOGETHER CONFERENCE
Thank you!

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