

SAFE PASSAGE: SCHOOL YEAR 2023-24

One of the safest places for young people to be is in school – that’s why one of the priorities each school day is to ensure students are supported as they travel to and from school.

The District’s Safe Passage, Safe Blocks program assigns Safe Passage Ambassadors – trained and trusted adults from community-based organizations - to select schools and works to build relationships with school staff, students, and families. Safe Passage programming includes conflict resolution, mediation services, and relationship building to keep students safe and improve student attendance.

HOW DOES SAFE PASSAGE WORK?

During School Year 2023-2024, 48 schools are covered by Safe Passage Ambassadors between student arrival (8 a.m.- 10 a.m.) and student dismissal (2:30 p.m.- 6 p.m.).

Approximately 180 Safe Passage Ambassadors are assigned to schools and surrounding neighborhoods.

Ambassadors serve as an additional set of “eyes and ears” on students’ commutes and are trained to build positive, trusting relationships with students. They work to positively engage with students, families, businesses, civic associations, institutional facilities, and community members within the priority area(s) to identify, intervene, de-escalate, and report violence.

WHAT DISTRICT AGENCY MANAGES THE SAFE PASSAGE PROGRAM?

In October 2023, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (DMPSJ) assumed day-to-day management of the District’s Safe Passage program. This school year, DMPSJ focused on establishing new protocols for Safe Passage Ambassadors to report unusual incidents along their routes and ensuring Ambassadors have necessary training. Safe Passage Ambassadors receive trainings in topics such as youth development, working with youth, reframing conflict, engaging with families, trauma informed care, and best practices of youth work.



Safe Passage Ambassadors are spotted in the community wearing green vests labeled on the back: “Safe Passage Team”.

WHAT IS THE HIRING PROCESS FOR SAFE PASSAGE AMBASSADORS?

Below is the contact information for SY23-24 Safe Passage providers as they directly hire Safe Passage Ambassadors. Please note each organization represents a different priority area that offers Safe Passage routes for District students.

Center for Nonprofit Advancement

nonprofitadvancement.org

Email: gleno@nonprofitadvancement.org

Phone: 202-457-0540

InnerCity Collaborative CDC (ICCCDC)

innercitydcd.org

Email: info@innercitycdc.org

Phone: 202-584-3103

Collaborative Solutions for Communities (CSC)

wearecsc.org

Email: info@wearecsc.org

Phone: 202-518-6737

National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens (NAARC)

naarc.org

Email: admin@naarc.org

Phone: 202-290-1038



HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SAFE PASSAGE PROGRAM?

Contact:

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Jasmin Benab, Community Outreach Coordinator

Email: SafePassage@dc.gov

Website: safepassage.dc.gov