

Guide to the Somerville Public Schools

somerville.k12.ma.us

8 Bonair Street
Somerville, MA
02145

617.629.5200

@SvilleSchools



A Message from the Superintendent

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome

Welcome to the Somerville Public Schools!

Thank you for your interest in being part of our teaching and learning community. Our schools reflect the wonderful diversity, innovative spirit and family values that make Somerville such an exceptional city.

We are incredibly proud of the work that our students and teachers do every day to help prepare students for a lifetime of success. We are also extremely grateful to work with parents, guardians and community partners who embrace the opportunity to be part of our students' learning experience, working with us as partners in education. Our commitment is to support every student in the best way we can, ensuring that we focus on the whole child. We look forward to working with you throughout your child's education in our district.

We invite you to read this Guide, visit our website (www.somerville.k12.ma.us), and follow us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest) to learn more about our district, and to find out about some of the initiatives that make our schools exciting places to learn.



Thank you. I look forward to seeing you in our schools!

Mary E. Skipper
Superintendent of Schools



Somerville School Committee

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Carrie Normand, Ward 7—School Committee Vice-Chair

Emily Ackman, Ward 1

Dan Futrell, Ward 2

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Katjana Ballantyne, President-Board of Aldermen

Mary Skipper, Secretary to the School Committee,
Superintendent of Schools

www.somerville.k12.ma.us/school_committee

Our Mission

Somerville Public Schools

Ours is a multicultural school community dedicated to the realization of the full intellectual, physical, social, and emotional potential of all students. In this pursuit, we shall maintain a safe environment that nurtures the curiosity, dignity and self-worth of each individual.

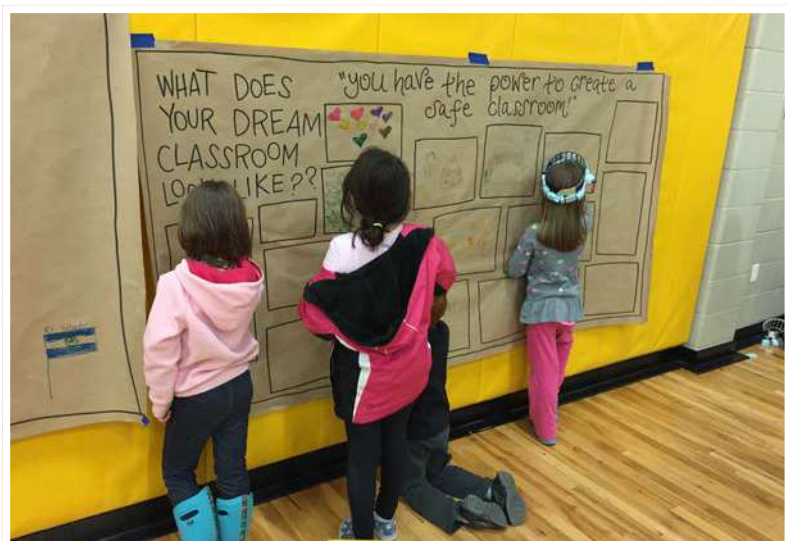
We are committed to the fulfillment of this mission by recognizing and advocating the following:

- Our students are capable of high achievement and we are committed to meeting the individual needs of each student.
- Our schools will be places of innovation marked by the active involvement of all members of the Somerville community.
- Our students will be prepared for adult life and provided with the vision and determination to contribute to an ever-changing world.
- A student has the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Our Vision

Somerville Public Schools

We believe in developing the whole child – the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students – by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities.



About the Somerville Public Schools

8 Bonair Street, Somerville MA, 02145 • ph.617-629-5200 • fax.617-666-1130 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us

Supporting the Whole Child

The Somerville Public Schools (SPS) is a diverse community of about 5,000 students who are part of an innovative and creative educational environment. Among the features that make the Somerville Public Schools leaders in education are:

A Comprehensive, Challenging, Engaging Curriculum

Somerville students benefit from a comprehensive, engaging curriculum that provides them with a competitive edge that comes from a wide range of learning opportunities, such as:

- **Hands-on learning experiences** including visits to high-tech institutions in the region, and learning opportunities with community partners who provide our students with real-world connections;
- **Project based learning activities** that help students develop leadership and communication skills while mastering core content, such as History Day presentations that include role playing of historical figures, Hour of Code events, and more;
- **Nature's Classroom and other educational field trips** that broaden students' knowledge and appreciation of the world around us;
- **The Middle Grades Project** – a fun and challenging media project where students learn about collaboration, problem-solving, critical thinking, technology and communication while researching ways to address current issues;
- **Cross Integration Projects** where students use knowledge gained in one subject to enhance their learning in another;
- **Robust menu of course offerings** for high school students, including AP courses, a wide breadth of World Languages and electives, and Career and Technical Education courses to meet the needs and interests of a diverse student body.

Somerville students benefit from an instructional program that includes:

A Rigorous Core Curriculum that provides students with a solid foundation for academic success by developing critical thinking skills and connecting their learning to the real world:

- **Balanced Literacy** approach to English Language Arts that challenges students daily
- **Investigations Math** curriculum that promotes critical thinking skills
- **Social Studies** curriculum enriched with project-based and experiential learning opportunities
- **Science** curriculum enhanced by off-site hands-on learning experiences

A Comprehensive Instructional Program that provides students with a rich overall learning experience, builds leadership skills, and develops the 21st century skills necessary to compete on a global scale.

- **Art** – The Visual Arts Department endorses the research that shows that students who participate in a Visual Arts Program develop basic skills that encourage visual awareness and are fundamental to intellectual growth and creative self-expression. All students have the opportunity to explore the visual arts. The Art Department offers a wide range of courses aimed at students of varying abilities and interests. Students who wish to pursue careers in art are offered specialized courses and portfolio preparation.
- **Athletics** – Athletics are an integral component of the overall educational experience, with the goal of having student athletes strive to reach their potential and give their best in the classroom and on the field. High School students can participate in interscholastic sports; middle grades students can participate in a variety of intramural sports teams.

Somerville Public Schools At-a-Glance*



Average class size	16.4	18.0
Student-teacher ratio	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Per pupil expenditures	\$18,165	\$14,942
Attendance rate	94.6%	94.9%
Student-computer ratio	2.3 to 1	3.0 to 1
Classrooms on the internet	100%	100%
English Language Learner	19.2%	9.5%
First language not English	49.3%	20.1%
Students with Disabilities	21.7%	17.4%
High Needs	60.2%	45.2%
Economically Disadvantaged	39.4%	30.2%

*All data provided in this guide is based on the latest information available on the Massachusetts Department of Education website, www.doe.mass.edu.

- **English Language Education** – In all English Language Learner (ELL) programs, students learn English as a Second Language (ESL) while learning grade-level content. Teachers modify their teaching methods to meet the needs of students as they develop English proficiency. ESL Instructional Specialists assigned to each school provide services to English Learners in general education and special education classes.
- **Health/Physical Education** – A comprehensive health and physical education instructional program encourages students to make healthy decisions and live an active lifestyle to the best of their ability across their lifetimes. The program includes swimming instruction in Grade 3, and bicycling instruction at Grade 5. Health topics are taught by a combination of classroom teachers, physical education instructors, guidance staff, school nurses, and community partners.
- **Library/Media Studies** – Weekly Library/Media Studies instruction helps ensure that SPS students are media literate. This is achieved through the integration of library media instruction with subject specific activities. Library Media Specialists collaborate with staff and students to develop activities that reinforce and expand classroom learning.
- **Music** – Weekly music instruction is available to students in grades Pre-Kindergarten (PK)-8. In addition, free instrumental music lessons are offered to students in grades 4-8. Somerville High School offers many music electives and students can concentrate their electives on music theory and practice. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their individual musicianship skills, as well as their contributions to the overall performance process at school, district, and community performances throughout the school year.
- **Special Education** – The Special Education Department helps ensure that students who require special education services in order to maximize their learning are identified, and that students' individualized learning needs are met in the least restrictive and most inclusive environment possible. Special Education staff members work with teachers, administrators and families to develop and implement Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for students, that will provide them with the greatest opportunity for success.
- **World Languages** – Somerville's World Language program is built on one of the greatest strengths of our community - the cultural and linguistic diversity of our students and their families. The SPS World Language Department endorses the research that shows that students who learn another language reach higher academic performance, display greater cognitive benefits, and develop a more positive attitude toward the target language and the speakers of that language. Elementary instruction focuses on appreciating other cultures through the understanding of their language. Middle grades students can participate in the Spanish world language program, while high school world language instruction includes opportunities to master Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese.

Continuous Learning for Continuous Growth

Somerville's commitment to supporting students extends beyond classroom time, with Out-of-School-Time programs and Adult Learning opportunities.

Community Schools Afterschool — PK-5 afterschool programs offer a diverse mix of grade-appropriate learning and enrichment activities that complement the school day and provide students with an opportunity to enhance their English, organizational, leadership and teamwork skills. Students also benefit from daily academic support, including homework assistance and targeted tutoring support.

Partnerships with Citizen Schools, Breakthrough Greater Boston, and Enroot provide additional afterschool academic and college and career readiness support for middle grades and targeted high school students.

Adult Learning — We're committed to helping build a stronger community by providing opportunities for continuous adult learning that can ultimately strengthen family foundations and lead to greater support of our youth.

- **SCALE**—Since 1974, The Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences (SCALE) has provided classes and support services to more than 1,200 adult learners annually who need basic reading, writing and math skills, English instruction for non-native speakers, or a high school credential. SCALE's fully accessible facilities have a state-of-the-art computer lab and an on-site HiSET Test Center. Most classes are free. Fees are charged for orientations as well as for testing for the GED (General Educational Development) diploma and for the ADP (Adult Diploma Program).

A Safe and Healthy Learning Environment

Our vision of educating the whole child extends beyond the classroom. By creating a learning environment that nurtures the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, we are creating an environment that enhances their ability to enjoy success in the classroom and beyond.

Our award-winning **Somerville Food & Nutrition Services Department**, a leader in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provides students with nutritious meals including a universal free breakfast program to help students start their day right.



Lunch options include fresh salad bars at most schools, delicious healthy entrees and plenty of fruits and vegetables. Students also actively explore the benefits of healthy food choices through fun Farm to School educational programs such as the annual district-wide Corn Shucking event, and food tastings that introduce students to new foods. Some schools also participate in the USDA's Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program which provides students with a healthy mid-afternoon fresh fruit or vegetable snack.

A structured **Physical Education** curriculum is enhanced with a variety of additional programs that keep students active and energized. The morning BOKS program at K-8 schools offers students a chance to kick-start their day with a 45-minute structured fitness program followed by a nutritious breakfast so students are ready to focus on learning when the morning bell rings. Through a partnership with Shape Up Somerville and dedicated teams of parents/guardians and community volunteers, many of our students periodically walk to school by participating in various "Safe Routes to School" initiatives, such as Walking School Buses and Park and Walk.

School Nursing support plays a key role in helping students develop healthy bodies and healthy minds. School Nurses in Somerville, managed through a partnership with the Somerville Health Department, facilitate positive student responses to youth development, promote health and safety, intervene with health concerns, provide case management, and actively and collaboratively build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

We also enhance students' success in the classroom by promoting **safe and supportive learning environments** in our schools. We help K-8 students develop good social skills using evidence-based curricula: Second Step and Responsive Classroom. Strong partnerships, such as our partnership with *Middlesex Partnerships for Youth (MPY)*, provide our students and staff with the strategies and knowledge to help them create a welcoming and supportive culture in their schools. These partnerships also help empower students to set high aspirations and to learn by leading. A variety of student clubs and groups, such as the Somerville Mediation Team at Somerville High, also help create positive school cultures through active student participation and civic engagement.

Our Schools

Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center (preK-K)
 Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park (preK-8)
 Benjamin G. Brown School (K-5)
 East Somerville Community School (K-8)
 Arthur D. Healey School (preK-8)
 John F. Kennedy School (preK-8)
 West Somerville Neighborhood School (preK-8)
 Winter Hill Community Innovation School (preK-8)
 Somerville High School
 Next Wave/Full Circle School

Community Engagement—The SFLC

Somerville students benefit from an engaged community, eager to share their expertise, time, and resources to support youth. The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) offers workshops and activities that engage parents and guardians in school-based programs that support their students' learning and development. Programs and workshop are open to all Somerville families and are organized in four strands: Family in the Community, Leadership and Advocacy, Teaching and Learning, and the Whole Child. Translation and interpretation are available at all workshops in the District's target languages (Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole). The SFLC also offers Parent-Child Literacy Playgroups, a Parent Child Home Program, The New Moms Group, and a Toddler-Parent Group. School-based Family and Community Liaisons also help connect families with their school.

To learn more about the SFLC, visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/families.

I want to be part of this great learning community! How do I register?

The Parent Information Center (PIC) is the first stop for anyone interested in enrolling their child in the Somerville Public Schools. PIC staff are ready to assist you with information about our schools, programs, and support services. PIC Director Regina Bertholdo and her staff welcome you to call (617-629-5670) or stop by their office (42 Prescott Street) to learn more about enrolling your child in our district, and to get the registration process under way. The Parent Information Center offers the following services:

- New Student Registration
- Preschool and Kindergarten Registration
- Nurse review and assistance obtaining medical registration information
- Intra-District Transfer Requests
- Information on Parent Workshops & Support Groups
- Interpretation and Translation Services, as well as Parent/Guardian outreach
- Information on Health Insurance enrollment
- Homeless support services and referrals

42 Prescott St. w Somerville, MA 02143
www.somerville.k12.ma.us/pic

Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center

150 Glen Street, Somerville 02145 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/capuano • ph.617.629.5480 • fax.617.628.6159

Principal: Cheryl Piccirelli • **Asst. Principal:** Felix Caraballo

The

The Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center serves a diverse community of young learners in a beautiful, bright, public early childhood facility. The building was designed with young children in mind, and offers a creative and environmentally friendly learning environment where children can safely explore, learn, and grow.




The Capuano Center's educational philosophy centers on providing students with extensive, varied, developmentally appropriate, and fun learning opportunities that will help them grow intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. Teaching students to love reading and to develop intellectual curiosity are important components of the school curriculum.

An enthusiastic, creative, and energetic staff works collaboratively to provide a diverse group of learners with a fun and engaging learning experience in a family-friendly atmosphere.

Highlights

- Recognized by the Green Guide as one of the top ten Green Schools in the nation
- Award-winning green building and innovative childhood learning center with child-friendly interpretive exhibits created by TERC installed throughout the school facility
- Second Step, the acclaimed social-emotional curriculum is used school-wide
- Partnership with Raising a Reader enhances student success by loaning students and their families a bag of books every week to share at home
- Community Schools runs an after school fee-for-service program that delivers safe, developmentally appropriate enrichment curriculum until 5:30 PM
- City of Somerville community gardens on site as well as state-of-the-art soccer and playground areas
- Strong parent-teacher (home-school) connection



At-a-Glance			
			
Average class size*	14.7	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	51.2%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	40.7%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	23.2%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	12.3 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	93.6%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	68.1%	60.2%	45.2%
Grades served: pre-K – K • FY2017 Enrollment: 332			
*FY2016 data			



Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School @ Lincoln Park

290 Washington Street, Somerville 02143 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/argenziano • ph.617.629.5460 • fax.617.629.5463
Interim Principal: Glenda Soto • Interim Asst. Principal: Larry Silverman

The

The Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park is driven by the mission of supporting and fostering an educational and communal environment that results in the development of students who are literate in all subject areas, experienced in current technologies, and who think critically, behave ethically, lead healthy lives, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship in a multicultural and multiracial society. Opened in September 2007, this state-of-the-art facility features upgraded classrooms, a gymnasium, a multi-purpose cafetorium, a library/media center, and a math/science technology center.

Building on the school's multicultural and multilingual strengths, the staff is committed to pursuing innovative teaching strategies that enable students to meet every academic challenge, and to fully develop lifelong learning skills. The Argenziano School at Lincoln Park also serves as the home of the District's Structured English Immersion Program (SEIP), offering intensive instruction for English Language Learners, including integrated model classrooms in the early grades. Many Argenziano students participate in a variety of academic and recreational activities offered both before and after school that provide additional quality education and enrichment programming.



Highlights

- Before school intensive tutoring program sponsored by the Duhamel Education Initiative (DEI)
- A pilot site for the ROARS Home Reading program with parent/guardian support
- On-site school garden for science & health instruction
- Middle Grades Aspiration Team and Middle Grades Project provide opportunities to develop student leadership, community outreach, and 21st century skills
- BOKS (Build Our Kids' Success) morning structured physical activity program, offered 2-3 times/week, to help students get their school day off to a healthy start
- Located next to Somerville's largest city-owned park, provides students access to extensive green space for nature walks and recess
- Project based learning opportunities such as Colonial Days and Heritage Night
- Named a Gold School in the U.S. Healthier Schools challenge for excellence in food service, physical education, and nutrition education



At-a-Glance



Average class size*	20.2	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	50.2%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	26.6%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	14.9%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	12.7 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	96.2%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	55.7%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: pre-K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 564

*FY2016 data

Benjamin G. Brown School

201 Willow Avenue, Somerville 02144 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/brown • ph.617.629.5620 • fax.617.625.4258

Principal: Shawn Maguire

Built

Built in 1900 and named for Tufts faculty member Benjamin G. Brown, the Brown School is the oldest elementary school in Somerville, and the smallest of the Somerville Public Schools' elementary schools. The Brown School offers a small school family atmosphere with a strong emphasis on preparing students to excel academically and personally, providing them with the tools to become productive and positive members of society.

The educational philosophy of the Brown school reflects its motto: "We are a community of learners who: **Believe** in ourselves, **Respect** ourselves and our community, **Organize** ourselves for success, **Work** together and help others, and **Never** give up!" Teachers participate in professional development endeavors to develop and create engaging teaching strategies that will meet the individual learning needs of their students.

Creative learning experiences such as Nature's Classroom and a focus on multi-grade relationships like learning buddies and academic mentors, help keep students engaged in their learning and in their community.

Highlights

- Extensive student participation in the string, band, and chorus programs
- Library/media center with extended morning and afternoon hours for independent reading, research, and class work
- Features numerous teacher-led clubs, such as Roots and Shoots (service club), Book Club and Chorus
- Nature's Classroom learning experience for 6th grade students
- Active Parent/Teacher Association that offers many special events and support of school programs



At-a-Glance



Average class size*	18.5	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	12.7%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	1.7%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	8.5%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	14.8 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	96.1%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	20.8%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: K – 5 • FY2017 Enrollment: 236

**FY2016 data*

East Somerville Community School

50 Cross Street, Somerville 02145 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/escs • ph.617.629.5400 • fax.617.629.5401

Principal: Dr. Holly Hatch • **Asst. Principal:** Laura Bonnell

The East Somerville Community School (ESCS) is a diverse learning community in an ethnically rich neighborhood. ESCS lives its motto, “Every Student can Succeed” by preparing students to achieve at high levels in their next stage of education, while applying lifelong learning skills. ESCS’s instructional focus is a school and community-wide effort to increase students’ ability to write to express their thinking and learning across the content areas as measured by the MCAS and school based common assessments.

The ESCS features state-of-the-art technology, a beautiful auditorium, child-friendly recreation facilities, outdoor learning environments including a school garden courtyard, and energy-saving features, all of which help create a positive teaching and learning environment.

ESCS is also home to the District’s UNIDOS program, a two-way English/Spanish language and cultural immersion program that enrolls native speakers of English and Spanish to learn together 50% of the day in Spanish and 50% in English. UNIDOS students are taught in both languages, and develop oral and written proficiency along with an appreciation of each other’s culture and heritage.






Highlights

- Home to the UNIDOS bilingual/bi-cultural Spanish-English immersion program
- Home of El Sistema Somerville, a district-wide intensive afterschool music experience based on an internationally recognized instructional model
- Recognized by the Rennie Center for achievement of special education youth and exemplary teaching of 21st century skills
- Second Step social-emotional curriculum for all students in Grades K-8
- Courtyard outdoor classrooms that enhances students’ learning experiences
- Reading Buddies program pairs grade 8 students with younger students to read together
- SPS Community Schools afterschool program provides developmentally-appropriate enrichment activities



At-a-Glance

			
Average class size*	20.0	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	71.2%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	28.6%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	17.0%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	13.2 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	96.4%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	68.0%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 725

*FY2016 data

Arthur D. Healey School

5 Meacham Street, Somerville 02145 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/healey • ph.617.629.5420 • fax.617.629.5423
Interim Principal: Jenna Cramer • **Asst. Principal:** Christopher Glynn

The

The Arthur D. Healey School is an innovative, participatory learning community that places a high value on academic competence and the belief that children learn best in a joyful, creative environment in which their natural curiosity, imagination and thinking are encouraged. The school emphasizes learning through creative experiences of project-based learning, arts integration, service learning integration and off-site learning. Learning experiences are designed to engage children's interest and best efforts, and to promote the importance of community in the lives of children. The Healey School celebrates diversity through its core values of excellence, joy, openness and creativity.

The Healey School was the pilot site of a Head Start/SPS classroom, an initiative launched in September 2014 as part of the District's commitment to universal kindergarten readiness and birth-to-grade 3 alignment efforts. This partnership has continued to grow across the district.




Healey School students and teachers also benefit from excellent outdoor spaces that are used for learning. The Healey school garden is the site of many hands-on student projects. The schools' proximity to the Mystic River also offers an outdoor learning laboratory for life sciences and much more. Teachers design engaging and creative learning experiences that include the use of these outdoor spaces.

Highlights

- Arts integration as an important curriculum practice
- Use of the Second Step curriculum to support social-emotional learning
- Use of Responsive Classroom to support development of a positive school climate
- Middle Grades Program that emphasizes college preparation including visits to local colleges
- Numerous rich afterschool programs that include academic support, technology, and arts
- Strong partnerships with Tufts University, Mystic Learning Center, and SomerPromise
- Emphasis on experiential learning opportunities, such as Nature's Classroom trips
- In 2013-14, 5 Healey students represented the District at the White House Garden Planting and Garden Harvest events, as guests of First Lady Michelle Obama.



At-a-Glance

			
Average class size*	16.1	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	49.8%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	21.5%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	24.5%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	10.2 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	95.1%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	72.2%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: pre-K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 428

*FY2016 data



John F. Kennedy School

5 Cherry Street, Somerville 02144 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/kennedy • ph.617.629.5440 • fax.617.776.8224

Principal: Mark Hurrie • Asst. Principal: Steven Marshall

Somerville's

Somerville's John F. Kennedy School is driven by the goal of providing all students with academic, social and emotional experiences necessary for future success. The school places a strong emphasis on inclusion, ensuring that all students with special needs can thrive in the general education setting.

Service learning, History and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) play prominently in a Kennedy students' learning experience. Kennedy middle grades students regularly compete in regional, statewide and national History Day competitions, and students at all grade levels have opportunities to learn the value of making a positive difference in their community by engaging in service learning activities throughout the year. The Kennedy School was the district's first school to develop a Makerspace/ Innovation Lab that all students and teachers are able to use to enhance and support what students are learning daily and to further stimulate student inquiry and engagement. A rich menu of out-of-school-time activities and programs provide students with additional enrichment and academic support.

SEEK and SKIP at the Kennedy School

The Somerville Public Schools are committed to providing the least restrictive setting possible for children with special educational needs. The SEEK (Socio-Emotional Education at the Kennedy) program serves children in grades K-8 who exhibit emotional and behavioral challenges preventing them from accessing the curriculum. A highly skilled staff of teachers, clinicians and support staff serve up to 40 children in five classrooms. Opportunities for inclusion in general education classes are provided with the active support of SEEK staff. SKIP (Specialized Kennedy Intensive Program) provides services to students with severe physical, cognitive, and medical disabilities and related challenges. This program offers an individualized program in very small class settings with staff-to-student ratios of up to 1:2, along with two full-time nurses and related clinical specialties. While students spend a considerable amount of time in small classes, each program strives to provide appropriate 'inclusion' opportunities based upon individual student needs. Both programs serve the entire public school district and are housed at the Kennedy School.

Highlights

- Features two computer labs, a library/media center, and a science lab
- Kennedy Pool, open to the public before and afterschool hours, features a Learn to Swim physical education program for all Somerville third grade students
- Home to SEEK and SKIP, specialized special education programs for youth with complex instructional and developmental needs
- Buddies program that pairs middle grades students with younger students for a variety of activities
- Tot Lot for younger children upgraded and made handicapped accessible
- Highly successful BOKS (Build Our Kids' Success) morning program offered 2-3 times/week provides structured physical activity and nutrition education, followed by a healthy school breakfast
- Rich menu of afterschool programs including Drama, Chorus, Computer Technology, and Math League



At-a-Glance

	18.2	16.4	18.0
Average class size*	18.2	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	18.0%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	1.9%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	28.9%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	12.1 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	95.5%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	43.9%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 471

*FY2016 data

West Somerville Neighborhood School

177 Powder House Blvd., Somerville 02144 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/wsns • ph.617.629.5600 • fax.617.666.7676

Principal: Kathleen Seward • **Asst. Principal:** Kim Murphy Baker

Staff

Staff, parents/guardians and the community of the West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) collaborate for the development of the whole child. The WSNS maintains high expectations for academic achievement and appropriate behavior with mutual respect. In 2014, the school earned Level 1 designation by the DESE, the highest accountability rating in the state's 5-level rating system.

The West Somerville Neighborhood School focuses on building student writing skills as a way of synthesizing thinking and nurturing creative expression. The school strives to extend and improve students' learning through the use of assessments, differentiated instruction, the use of technology and interdisciplinary projects. The ultimate goal is to develop students with skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who contribute responsibly in a global society.




Learning at the WSNS continues well past the afternoon bell with a variety of afterschool programs and enrichment opportunities for students, including academic support, creative arts and sports. Afterschool programs are arranged by age groups, providing for developmentally appropriate activities.

Highlights

- Second Step social-emotional curriculum for all students in Grades pre-K – 8
- Grade 6 students attend “Kids to College” at Tufts University
- Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 participate in the city-wide Math League
- Library/media center open extended morning and afternoon hours for independent reading, research and class work
- Annual school-wide Science Fair, Grades K-8
- Tutoring support for struggling students through Afterschool Tutorial Program and Tufts University students
- Named a bronze school in the U.S. Healthier Schools Challenge for excellence in food service, and physical and nutrition education



At-a-Glance

			
Average class size*	19.9	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	26.5%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	4.5%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	17.5%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	15.1 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	95.5%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	48.8%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: pre-K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 377

*FY2016 data



Winter Hill Community Innovation School

115 Sycamore Street, Somerville 02145 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/whcs • ph.617.629.5680 • fax.617.623.8492

Principal: Chad Mazza • **Asst. Principal:** Courtney Gosselin

The Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) is a child-centered, academically rich environment that serves a population of students from culturally diverse backgrounds. As part of the school's collaborative approach to teaching and learning, teachers regularly have one on one conferences with students to assess progress and mutually set goals. In 2014, the WHCIS advanced to Level 2 status on the state's 5-level accountability rating system and has continued to make gains in narrowing achievement gaps.

Winter Hill is the district's first school to receive "Innovation School" designation from the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. As part of its Innovation status, WHCIS enjoys increased autonomy and has been introducing new educational practices to support its vision of using innovative approaches to better meet the varied needs of a highly diverse range of learners. In 2017, the Winter Hill became the first public Innovation School to receive the Pozen Prize for Innovative Schools and the accompanying \$75,000 award.

A new approach to professional development includes cross-team, grade-level common planning time. WHCIS also adopted the Responsive Classroom social and emotional learning program. These initiatives have strengthened the schools' commitment to inclusion. Introduction of a dress code (voted on by students) and Breakfast in the Classroom support the commitment to the whole child.






Highlights

- Award 'Pozen Prize for Innovative Schools' in 2017
- District's only Innovation School; earned status in FY2013
- Houses elementary special education programs and the middle grades Sheltered English Immersion Program (SEIP) with a focus on inclusionary practices
- Breakfast in the Classroom program since FY2015
- Extensive, targeted professional development and common planning time
- Use of Responsive Classroom to promote a common language school-wide, and to support development of a positive school climate
- Middle Grades Student Aspirations Team encourages students to play an active role in school decision-making and in developing a positive school culture
- Extensive tutoring support for struggling students through the Afterschool Tutoring Program and Tufts University students
- On-site school garden for science & health instruction
- Named a Silver School in the Healthier US School challenge for excellence in food service, and physical and nutrition education
- Introduced school dress code in FY15, modeled and voted on by students the previous year



At-a-Glance

			
Average class size*	17.8	16.4	18.0
First Language not English	60.2%	49.3%	20.1%
English Language Learner	29.7%	19.2%	9.5%
Students w/Disabilities	29.4%	21.7%	17.4%
Student—teacher ratio	11.4 to 1	11.5 to 1	13.2 to 1
Attendance rate	95.6%	94.6%	94.9%
High Needs	77.3%	60.2%	45.2%

Grades served: pre-K – 8 • FY2017 Enrollment: 462

*FY2016 data

Next Wave/Full Circle Schools

8 Bonair Street, Somerville 02145 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/nwfc • ph.617.629.5640 • fax.617.628.6837

Principal: Margaret DePasquale Green

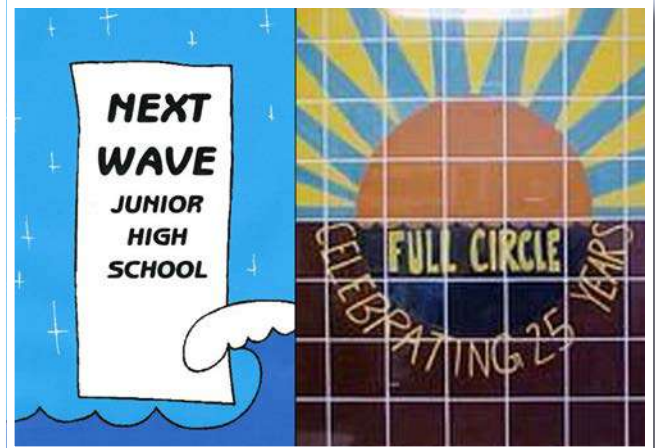
Next Wave Junior High School and Full Circle High School are Somerville's alternative therapeutic schools. Both schools are designed to meet the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students who, for many reasons, have been unable to experience success in more traditional education settings. By combining the clinical concept of a therapeutic community with the educational concepts of individualized and specialized integrated learning experiences, Next Wave/Full Circle effects academic, social, and personal success for students between the ages of 12 and 21.

The program at Next Wave and Full Circle includes academic, therapeutic, and structured student governance components. Students work with materials and on projects designed to meet them where they're at academically and socially, proceeding at their own pace, and developing strong personal relationships that foster participation in the school as a democratic community. Both schools help students develop the necessary academic and social skills to complete high school and to continue their education or successfully enter the workforce. Project-based and experiential learning opportunities in small-group settings are important aspects of the program. This approach helps students gain teamwork and leadership skills that can lead to success in and outside of the classroom.

Students earn a Full Circle diploma upon completion of all course and credit requirements. Full Circle offers a standard (although adapted and individualized) high school curriculum that includes math, language arts, science, and social studies, along with some electives. Credits are awarded based on attendance, academic performance, and participation in a comprehensive program of required curricula, student government activities, a work-study program, and counseling groups.

Full Circle and Next Wave are committed to the idea of an integrated teaching and counseling environment. Counseling is an important part of the program, and is incorporated into the daily schedule. Every student is assigned to a counseling group, which meets biweekly. Emphasis is placed on conflict resolution through a verbal, rather than physical, expression of emotions.

At all times, two basic values are stressed: first, that Next Wave/Full Circle must be a safe place for everyone; and secondly, that every member of the school community must be treated with respect. Parent involvement is also crucial to students' success at Next Wave/Full Circle.



Somerville High School

81 Highland Avenue, Somerville 02143 • www.somerville.k12.ma.us/shs • ph.617.625.6600 x 6100 • fax.617.629.4763

Principal: Sebastian LaGambina • **Associate Principal:** Leo DeSimone

Somerville

Somerville High School is organized into administrative “houses” that provide team-oriented services to students and families.

- *Beacon House* (617) 629-5260: Jane Cummings, Asst. Principal
- *Broadway House* (617) 629-5290: Dr. Darius Green, Asst. Principal
- *Elm House* (617) 629-5270: Marie Foreman, Asst. Principal
- *Highland House* (617) 629-5280: Harry Marchetti, Asst. Principal
- *Center for Career and Technical Education* (617) 625-6600 ext. 6135: Leo DeSimone, Director

Somerville High School (SHS) is one of the best performing urban high schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It has been recognized by public and private organizations for its achievements, but SHS is more than awards and recognitions. We celebrate our diverse student body of nearly 1,300 students. Approximately 50 different languages are represented among our student population. This multicultural mecca sets the stage for a challenging and exciting school community that pushes every aspect of student learning. We especially focus on developing the knowledge and skills that will give our students a competitive edge in an increasingly global society.

SHS offers a rigorous core curriculum with an expanding menu of AP classes. Classroom experiences regularly connect students with industry and community partners such as Biogen, Tufts University, M.I.T., and many others.

Every student can thrive at Somerville High School. In addition to the broad range of courses that includes a strong core

curriculum and full complement of Honors and Advanced Placement courses, SHS offers a breadth of World Language offerings, and Art and Music programs as well as a rich after-school life that includes athletic, extracurricular and community activities. SHS students can also participate in a cutting-edge Career and Technical Education program that combines traditional technical programs like auto repair and carpentry with emerging career fields such as nursing, engineering, computer aided design, and early childhood education.

The SHS community subscribes to a respectful code of conduct, designed to promote the dignity of every individual. This is matched by a set of expectations that asks students to take increasing amounts of responsibility for their learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom. Students take that code of conduct seriously, as evidenced by the award-winning Somerville Mediation Program which annually trains and deploys more than 35 student mediators to help resolve peer conflicts peacefully.

SHS was founded in 1852. Tradition also plays an important role in a student's experience. Students annually showcase foods, traditions, attire and customs from their native countries during a student-planned Multicultural Day. In the spring, Class Day marks a celebration of the next chapter for three SHS classes: graduating seniors “pass the spade” to the next SHS graduating class, and the class colors to the incoming freshman class.

Innovation and Tradition intertwine with an energetic and dedicated staff, and an active and engaged student body at Somerville High School, to offer students a rich educational experience that will prepare them for a lifetime of success.

The Somerville High School Class of 2017 graduates will be well-represented at universities across the U.S. and beyond, including M.I.T., Tufts, Stanford, Univ. of Chicago, Univ. of Toronto, and many more.



Home of the Highlanders

Grades: 9-12 • 2017 Enrollment: 1,259 • 2017 Avg. Student-Teacher Ratio: 10.2:1



*Somerville High School (SHS)
is one of the best performing urban high schools in
the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

Highlights

- Recognized by the College Board in 2016 for expanding access to and increasing enrollment in AP courses.
- Robotics team advanced to their first World Championship event since 2013
- Level 1 School (highest rating on the state's five-level Accountability rating system)
- Leading high school in the Commonwealth for MCAS student growth
- 2013 Boston Globe **Top 15 Dream School**
- 2012 National **Verizon "Demonstration" School**
- Named the **2011 Massachusetts "Innovative School of the Year"** by the MA Biotechnology Council
- Diverse student population representing approximately 50 different languages from around the world
- Partnership with Tufts University College Advising Corps to support college preparedness for youth and families, including free SAT prep courses
- Universal PSAT testing for all students in grades 10 and 11 to promote college aspirations
- Wide selection of Advanced Placement courses
- Comprehensive high school includes a licensed Career and Technical Education center offering 13 programs
- More than 60 clubs and athletics opportunities to complement a comprehensive school curriculum
- House System serves as "home base" for core student support services for students and parents/guardians
- Ninth Grade Experience designed to ease the transition into high school by fostering increased communication among freshmen families, teachers, and staff.
- Special services for English Language Learners including dedicated Guidance Counselor and a Welcome Center
- Award-winning Somerville Mediation Program
- Award-winning Music and Arts programs
- Rich World Language program and state-of-the-art Language Lab
- Graduates attend some of the nation's best universities including M.I.T., Harvard, Tufts, Columbia, Boston College, Boston University, Cornell, Yale, Georgetown, Temple, Stanford and others



About Somerville

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Somerville

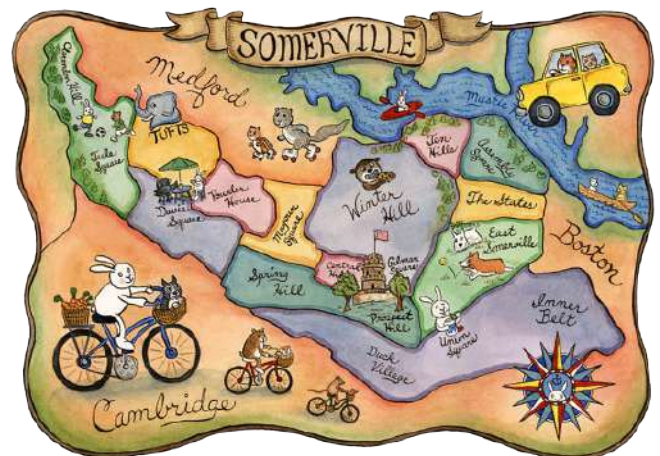
Somerville is a wonderfully diverse city located just two miles north of Boston. Occupying slightly over 4 square miles, its population of more than 75,000, including immigrants from all over the world, make Somerville the most densely populated community in New England and one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the nation. Somerville is rich in history and culture. It is the 13th largest city in Massachusetts, and is also one of the most economically, culturally, and linguistically diverse, bringing together recent immigrants from around the world and generations of families who have made Somerville their home for decades. More than 50 different languages are spoken in Somerville.

Somerville was officially incorporated as a city in 1872, but its roots date back to 1630 when it was originally settled as part of Charlestown. By the early 1900s, the City of Somerville had become a densely packed urban area featuring immigrants from across Europe, and a rich history. Somerville's historic Powder House – now considered one of the most distinct ancient ruins in Massachusetts – was part of the route ridden by Paul Revere on his famous “Midnight Ride.” Prospect Hill, another Somerville historical gem, was the site of the raising of the first Grant Union Flag. Visit the Somerville Historic Preservation site for more information about Somerville's rich history.

Today, under the dynamic leadership of Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Somerville is a vibrant and eclectic city that embraces an innovative and collaborative approach to creating an “exceptional place to live, work, play

and raise a family.” Today's Somerville is a mix of long-time Somerville families, young professionals, college students and recent immigrants who proudly celebrate the City's history and diversity. Known for its city squares, each with its unique character, Somerville's neighborhoods feature bustling businesses and entertainment centers to meet every taste and fit every occasion.

Somerville is an arts mecca boasting one of the most vibrant and exciting arts cultures in the country. Only New York has more artists per capita than the City of Somerville. Community-wide events throughout the year help families connect to one another while enjoying the artistic talents of its community. Somerville is also a national leader in the use of data to drive positive change, and as a community committed to empowering residents to lead healthy, active, and happy lives. Cutting-edge initiatives such as Shape Up Somerville, Somerville's 3-1-1 call center, and SomaStat have catapulted Somerville into the national spotlight as a place of innovation, vision, and excitement.



Exceptional place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Highlights

The following list of recognitions helps tell the story of Somerville's vision and commitment to being an "exceptional place to live, work, play and raise a family."

- Best Run City in the Commonwealth in 2006
- America's Promise Alliance "100 Best Communities for Young People" from 2008 to 2011
- All-America City in 1972, 2009, and 2015
- Founding member of Harvard's "By All Means" initiative



Only New York has more artists per capita than the City of Somerville.



Occupying slightly over 4 square miles, its population of more than 75,000, including immigrants from all over the world, make Somerville the most densely populated community in New England and one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the nation.



Somerville Public Schools

somerville.k12.ma.us

8 Bonair Street
Somerville, MA
02145

617.629.5200

@SvilleSchools

EDUCATION
Inspiration
Excellence

