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TO: Somerville School Committee

FROM: Jose Mendez

CC: Superintendent Mary Skipper
Acting Superintendent Jeff Curley
Interim Chief of Staff & Strategy Susana Hernandez Morgan

DATE: 9/7/2022

RE: Update on SPS M7 MBTA Pass Program

School Committee Chairman Green and members of the Somerville School Committee, I am pleased to submit the following updates on the M7 MBTA Pass program in Somerville Public Schools.

1. MBTA Pass Program Expansion

During the 21-22 school year, Somerville Public Schools distributed 1,200 MBTA cards to high school students. We are happy to announce that we have launched the expansion of the M7 MBTA Cards for all SPS students in grades 7 to 12 and will be distributing approximately 2,000 M7 MBTA Cards for the 22-23 school year. The M7s are pre-loaded monthly passes for unlimited travel on the subway, local or Express buses, and Commuter Rail Zones 1A, 1, and 2 from September through June. Not only will students will be able to travel in and around the City of Somerville to attend school, participate in extracurricular activities, go to appointments or jobs, and access critical resources, the M7 passes also expand students' access to programs and services outside of Somerville.

2. Distribution

Activation of passes began Wednesday, August 30th, 2022. Passes were distributed to school administrators and given out to students during the week of September 5th. We anticipate that all 7th-12th grade students in the district will have received their passes by Friday, September 9th. Passes will continue to be activated and distributed as needed throughout the school year.

3. SPS Online Update

Program information detailing policies and other frequently asked questions are available on [Somerville Public Schools website](https://www.somerville.k12.ma.us).

The M7 MBTA passes help to directly address the transportation barrier that many students face, increasing students' access to opportunities, programs, and services. We appreciate the School Committee's support of this critical resource for our students.