

District Receives \$115,958 Grant for Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Irvington Schools to receive \$115,958 grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The Irvington School District will receive \$115,958 for bicycle and pedestrian safety as part of the federally funded “Safe Routes to School” program.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Astrid Glynn announced more than \$27 million in grants for 70 projects across the state to help students walk and bike safely to school and home again. The Village of Irvington will also receive \$228,723 for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements. “I am thrilled that the District has been awarded this grant funding because it will enable our schools to promote healthier lifestyles for our students through bicycling and walking initiatives. I am particularly excited about a walking school bus!”, said Irvington Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Matusiak.

The intent of the Safe Routes to School program is to enable and encourage children to adopt a more healthy and active lifestyle by making both bicycling and walking safer and more appealing transportation alternatives. The funds also will help schools and other local agencies plan, develop and implement transportation projects that improve safety while reducing traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The District submitted its grant application last year in coordination with the Village of Irvington, with the assistance of district and village resident John Canning. Projects that will be completed using the grant to the District include:

- **Resurfacing walkways leading to Dows Lane (from Half Moon, Maple St., Oak and Willow Sts.)**
- **Building new sidewalks at Dows Lane turning circle and near the Dows Lane library**
- **Resurfacing walkways leading to the Middle School and cutting curbing for bicycles**
- **Repairing the aqueduct trail leading to schools**
- **Promoting “walking school buses” and bicycling to school as alternatives**

The District wishes to thank the Village, John Canning, and other residents who assisted and who wrote letters in support of this cooperative effort. “We are very pleased that both the school district and the Village of Irvington were able to obtain a ‘Safe Routes to School’ grant,” said School Board President Tanya Hunt. “This is a wonderful example of how cooperative efforts, such as this one between the school district and the village, can produce excellent results.