## BUCKLE UP DRIVING SCHOOL

IMPROVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DRIVER EDUCATION AT BHS

DR. JOSLYN VENDOLA, PHD

#### WHY DRIVER EDUCATION?

- TEEN DRIVERS WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN DRIVER EDUCATION ARE:
  - 75% MORE LIKELY TO GET A TRAFFIC TICKET
  - 24% MORE LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN A FATAL OR INJURIOUS CAR CRASH
- OHIO STUDY (2022) SHOWED THAT DRIVERS "LICENSED AT 18, MAKING THEM EXEMPT FROM COMPREHENSIVE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, HAD THE HIGHEST CRASH RATES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF LICENSURE OF ALL THOSE LICENSED UNDER THE AGE OF 25" (CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA).
- DRIVER ED MEANS SAFER DRIVERS, PASSENGERS, CYCLISTS, AND PEDESTRIANS.

#### **PROBLEM**

- STUDENTS IN FINANCIAL NEED CANNOT AFFORD A PRIVATE DRIVING SCHOOL.
- STUDENTS WITH VARIOUS LEARNING NEEDS BENEFIT FROM INSTRUCTORS WITH A SPECIAL EDUCATION BACKGROUND.
- ALL STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM CLASSES TAUGHT BY EXPERIENCED AND LICENSED TEACHERS AND DRIVER EDUCATION IS A CRUCIAL CLASS.
- PRIVATE DRIVING SCHOOLS ARE NOT CURRENTLY MEETING THESE NEEDS.

#### SOLUTION

# MA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS CAN START THEIR OWN DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

THESE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN OFFER

WELCOME TO BUCKLE UP DRIVING SCHOOL!

#### COMPLETED STEPS

- **✓ BEF GRANT AWARDED**
- ✓ TEACHERS CERTIFIED AS PROFESSIONAL DRIVING INSTRUCTORS
- ✓ RMV'S INITIAL INSPECTION OF TEACHING SPACE
- ✓ CURRICULUM CREATED AND RMV APPROVED BUCKLE UP
  CURRICULUM FOLDER
- ✓ FORECAST BUDGET
- ✓ VEHICLE FOR ON-ROAD INSTRUCTION DONATION OFFERED.

# WHAT'S LEFT?

- CAR DONATION AND INSURANCE
- BUDGET AND A BUCKLE UP REVOLVING FUND
- FINAL APPLICATION FOR THE RMV
- PROMOTE, ENROLL, AND BUCKLE UP!

### CAR DONATION AND INSURANCE

- Herb Chambers Car Donation
  - NEED SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE DONATION
- ADD THIS CAR TO SELF-INSURANCE PLAN IN BROOKLINE

### BUDGET AND REVOLVING FUND

- WITH A \$10,000 BUDGET, A COURSE CAN BE RUN FREE OF CHARGE FOR 20 STUDENTS.
- WITH A SLIDING SCALE TUITION, BUCKLE UP COULD BECOME FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING
  - I.E. 15 FULL PAYING STUDENTS WOULD COVER THE COST FOR AN ADDITIONAL 10 FULL SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS
- FORECAST BUDGET

### FINAL RMV APPROVAL

REQUIREMENTS:

DRIVER ED APPROVED TRAINING VEHICLE

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM

FINAL INSPECTION OF DRIVER ED FACILITIES/VEHICLE

#### PROMOTE, ENROLL, BUCKLE UP!

- INTERESTED STUDENTS AND PARENTS ALREADY REACHING OUT
- METCO COORDINATOR HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES OF HIGH INTEREST
- THERE IS STILL TIME THIS YEAR TO PRIORITIZE SENIORS IN HIGH NEED

#### STUDENT AND PARENT TESTIMONIALS

"Students like me, in transitional times in their life would really benefit from this at school. If I already had my license I could have had more job opportunities. Now I am about to graduate and I already could have had my license but some students just need this offered at school more than others. And some students just feel more comfortable taking a class like this with teachers they know!"

"I'm a single mom and my youngest of 5 is a senior at BHS. Paying for driver education is a financial hardship but so is paying higher insurance rates if he doesn't take it. We need this program at the high school because I know I am not the only single mom with a kid who could get their license through it and that would help the whole family. He already has family responsibilities and is about to go to college – I want him and all the students to be safe drivers and have access to this program."

#### WHY BUCKLE UP?

- OPPORTUNITY FOR BROOKLINE TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM
- \*ADDRESS A LONGSTANDING ISSUE OF EQUITY RELATED TO LACK OF ACCESS TO DRIVER EDUCATION

