

Walking School Bus



What is a Walking School Bus?

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or as structured as a planned route with “bus” stops, a timetable, and a schedule of trained volunteers.

Benefits:

- It’s fun!
- Kids learn pedestrian safety with adult guidance and supervision.
- Kids arrive at school alert and ready to learn.
- It’s a great opportunity for kids and adults to get more physical activity as part of their day.
- Kids and adults learn more about their neighborhoods, meet more neighbors, and get to socialize with each other.
- Walking instead of driving private cars reduces traffic congestion around schools and improves air quality; parents save gas otherwise required to drive to and from school.



A Few Options

- Families in a neighborhood agree to walk to school together once a week.
- Adult walk leaders pick up children at designated group meeting spots on a route to school.
- Families meet at a designated location and walk together to school.
- Trained adult volunteers stop at each participating child’s home on a planned route to school.

Suggestions for Success

Plan policies ahead and inform parents:

- What to do if their child will be absent.
- What to tell their child about pedestrian safety and appropriate behavior when walking to school.
- The late arrival policy along the “bus” route.
- The school delay and inclement weather policy.

Safety Considerations:

- Children need to know pedestrian safety behaviors and walking school bus rules.
- If there are children already walking in unsafe conditions, the adult supervision provided by a walking school bus could be a way to make it less dangerous.
- If traffic conditions make it unsafe to walk, a walking school bus program should not begin until the problems have been addressed

For more information, refer to the [National Center for SRTS Walking School Bus Guide](https://www.nationalcenterforwalkingtoschool.org/) available on [SCsaferoutes.org](https://www.SCsaferoutes.org)

QUESTIONS?
We are here to help.

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