

The Walking School Bus Program:

- Improves school attendance and punctuality
- Encourages daily physical activity
- Fosters friendships and social skills
- Enhances student safety on the way to school
- Supports families with limited transportation options
- Builds trust and connections between families, schools and communities
- Provides meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Strengthens community engagement and support for education

Have Questions?

Thinking about starting a Walking School Bus at your school? We're here to help. Reach out with any questions and we'll be happy to assist.

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Learn More About
Today's Presentation



Walking
School Bus



BRIDGING GAPS AND
BUILDING COMMUNITY

More Than a Walk to School

A Walking School Bus is a group of students walking to school along a set route, guided by two or more adult volunteers, similar to a school bus but on foot.

The Walking School Bus helps remove and address barriers such as transportation gaps, parent work schedules and safety concerns, making it easier for students to get to school regularly.

By helping students arrive safely and consistently, the Walking School Bus supports academic success, strengthens families and builds community connections.

770.9 miles walked
this school year!

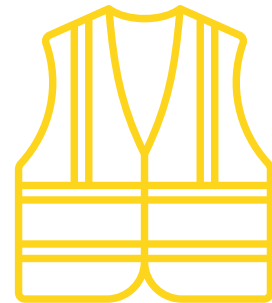
Get Your Walking School Bus Rolling

Starting a Walking School Bus program is easier with a clear plan. Begin by understanding the needs of your school community and identifying which students would benefit most. Set specific goals, like improving attendance or increasing safety. Then connect with school staff, parents and local organizations who can help make it happen.



1 Route Mapping & Safety

Routes must be planned for safety and efficiency. They should be walkable, usually within one to one and a half miles for elementary students, include sidewalks and crosswalks, have good visibility and avoid heavy traffic or hazards.



2 Get Volunteers on Board

Think broadly when recruiting volunteers. Reach out through school newsletters, PTA meetings, community centers, faith-based groups, and online volunteer portals. Be clear about the commitment and benefits to encourage participation.

3 Getting Kids Excited to Join

Identify students who would benefit most by working with teachers and social workers for attendance and logistical insights. Make the program appealing so students encourage their parents to join. Obtain parental permission and communicate clearly about routes, schedules, and safety to build trust and boost sign-ups.

4 Navigating Potential Challenges

- Close parental communication gaps by using multiple channels
- Ensure volunteer reliability with a clear backup system and advance absence reporting
- Share a clear weather cancellation policy with parents and volunteers
- Manage student behavior by setting expectations early, using positive reinforcement, training volunteers and involving parents or staff as needed

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