



Guidelines for Walking School Bus "Drivers" and "Monitors"



Thanks for volunteering to be part of our Walking School Bus on Walk and Roll to School Day! These "walking buses" are lots of fun - kids and adults alike really enjoy them! The following is some important information to make your journey to school a smooth and safe one.

Your "Job" as the Walking School Bus Driver and Monitor

- The Walking School Bus Driver walks at the front of the "bus" and sets an example for safe pedestrian behavior. (See Simple Steps for Walking Safely below.) The Driver knows the route and the stops along the way, and keeps track of the time.
- The Monitor walks at the back of the bus to keep an eye on the children in front of her/him. She/he ensures that all participants in the Walking School Bus are walking in a safe and courteous manner.
- Both the Driver and the Monitor wear bright clothing (or vests) so that the group is highly visible to motorists; both may carry "stop" signs for intersections.

Gathering the Group

- Please arrive at your starting location at least 5 minutes earlier than the gathering time for the children.
- Be sure that the children have a place to gather that is out of the way of motorized traffic.
- As children arrive, check their names off the list provided. If a child is not on the list, but has a permission slip "ticket" in hand, you may allow him/her to walk with the bus. If a child is not on the list and does not have a "ticket," please assign an adult to accompany the child to school; the child will not be "officially" part of the Walking School Bus (for liability and precedent-setting reasons). Upon arrival at school, the accompanying adult should bring the child to the office so that the parents can be contacted.
- Distribute hand-held signs to children and/or adults (optional).

Starting Out

- Welcome the group and congratulate them on participating in Walk and Roll to School Day. Explain the basic safety rules that are appropriate to your route. (See Simple Steps, below.)
- Line the children up so that they can comfortably fit the space in which you will be walking.

- Ask adults to walk behind each group of 10 children (use a higher adult to child ratio for younger children if possible).
- Leave your starting location a few minutes later than indicated on the schedule to allow for late-comers at each point along the way. (It's better to be late than early to avoid missing children who want to participate.)
- You might want to begin with a bit of "fanfare", such as a "Walk and Roll to School, It's Cool!" chant.

Simple Steps for Walking Safely

- Walk on a sidewalk where you can; where there is no sidewalk, always walk on the LEFT, *facing* traffic
- STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN at every road edge.
- Cross in the crosswalk where there is one.
- Look LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT-again AND over the shoulder before crossing a street.
- Cross when clear, and KEEP LOOKING left and right.
- WALK across the street - don't run!

Along the Route

- Your primary job is to ensure that the children proceed safely along the route, but you also want to make this activity fun. A chant, a walking song, or an "I Spy" game can keep the children engaged and less likely to get into difficult or dangerous behaviors.
- If the group is small enough, talk to the children about pedestrian safety at points on your walk - explain why you are walking in a certain place, how you are going about crossing the street, etc.
- Stop briefly at the designated Walking School Bus stops; welcome and check in any waiting students. (Be sure their name is on the list or have a permission slip in hand.) Check the time, then continue on, modifying the pace, if necessary, to reach your next destination just slightly behind schedule.

Arriving at School

- Safe Routes to School volunteers will be waiting at the school with stickers for each of the students. Please collect any signs the children have been carrying at this time.
- Once the students have received their stickers, they may proceed to the reception area for refreshments and prizes.
- Your duties are completed! Congratulate yourself on a safe journey, relax, have some refreshments, and celebrate! Thank you!!!

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