



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Walking School Buses in Hunterdon County

What is a Walking School Bus?

The cornerstone of most Safe Routes to School Programs is the walking school bus, a group of chaperoned students who walk to school together on a set route. The chaperone helps reduce the safety concerns some parents may have. It also provides opportunities to teach children how to be safe and alert pedestrians. Walking school buses can run daily, weekly, or a few times per year. Chaperones are typically staff members or volunteer parents.

Walking school buses can be casual, meeting at one location and walking to school or formal with specific times for certain stops, several routes and a daily roster to track student involvement. HART will work with your school to establish a program that fits the school's needs and parent concerns.

Which schools have walking school buses?

2011-2012 School Year: Califon Public School, Frenchtown Elementary, Lambertville Public School, Lebanon Borough School, Milford Public School currently have programs.

Does my child have to participate?

Participation in a walking school bus, or any other Safe Routes to School activity, is voluntary.

Do I have to walk with my child in order for them to participate?

No. However, schools often look to parents/guardians serve as chaperones. Your participation would be most welcome and appreciated. The following adult to child ratio is suggested: One adult per 3 children ages 4-6. One adult per 6 children ages 7-9. Children over age 10, at the discretion of the parents/school.

What if some students don't live close enough to walk?

At schools where some children walk and others are bussed, schools may designate a drop off location within 1 mile of the school to serve as the start of a walking school bus route. Students may be driven to this chaperoned location and join in the walk at that point.

What about Bicycling to School?

A variation on the walking school bus is the bicycle train, in which adults supervise children riding their bikes to school.

Why should we promote walking or biking to school?

- Walking and biking are healthy and environmentally-friendly transportation options for short distances.
- 31.7% of American children are overweight or obese. 29% of NJ children don't get the recommended amount of daily exercise, one hour.
- Obese children tend to become obese adults.
- Walking to school provides regular moderate-intensity exercise.

For further information and resources about Safe Routes to School in Hunterdon County,

Visit: www.harttma.com/community or

contact John Stevenson (908) 788-5553 ext. 15 john@harttma.com