

Safety Policies

Walking School Bus Leaders, please:



1. **Be Visible - Day or Night.** *You are required to wear your safety vest on every walk.* Be careful at points where vegetation, snow banks, or parked vehicles may compromise your line of sight.
2. **Be Alert - Look and Listen.** Be observant at all times. Take advantage of teachable moments.
3. **On each walk to school, remind the children of the Walking Rules:**
 - Enjoy the Walk (but Don't Run)
 - Stay on the Sidewalk
 - Look and Listen
 - Stay with the Group
 - No Roughhousing
4. **Walk Together as a Group** - Put a volunteer or an older child at the front with instructions to slow everyone down so the last person is not too far behind. Make sure students wait at street crossings for the group to gather; the volunteers decide when to cross as a group.
5. **Cross with Care** – Cross each street as a group. Use crosswalks and obey pedestrian signals. Look all ways, including back over your shoulder, before entering the street. Watch for turning cars at intersections, even if the pedestrian light is white. Practice the “wait, watch and wave” approach to make sure drivers see you before crossing. Do not run across streets.

If a child fails to follow the safety rules, please inform WSB Coordinator immediately.

- **First Offense:** School will speak with child and inform family.
- **Second Offense:** School will speak with child and inform family again.
- **Third Offense:** Student is suspended from program for one week.
- **Any Additional Offense:** Child will not be able to participate in Walking School Bus Program.

As a Walk Leader, you may use discretion if offenses are minor. However, **please inform WSB Coordinator of any ongoing issues or concerns.**

Lastly, please be sure to carry your cell phone.

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Emergency Protocol

What is an Emergency?

Deep cuts, broken bones, unconsciousness, medical conditions (seizures, asthma attacks, etc), any incident involving a vehicle – or severe behavior of a student or person on the route that affects the safety of the group.



Steps to Follow:

1. Keep the Group Safe — Position group in a safe place away from traffic. In addition to the WSB Volunteers on hand, enlist a trustworthy bystander to assist if necessary.
2. Make Sure Any Victims are Protected From Further Injury - Don't move unconscious victims if there is any possibility of neck or spine injury.
3. Call 911 – If Medical or Public Safety Emergency - *If student behavior issue, may need only to call school.*
4. Call [NAME OF SCHOOL] Immediately to Notify of Situation: [PHONE #]
5. For Medical or Public Safety Emergency: One volunteer should stay with victim at scene until Police or EMS arrive and the volunteer can hand the scene over to qualified personnel.
6. For Severe Student Behavioral Incident (e.g. leaving or refusing to continue with the group): One volunteer should stay with student at the scene until school personnel can arrive.
7. Other Volunteer(s) Should Proceed to School with Group.
8. Complete Verbal or Written Incident Report as soon as possible with WSB Coordinator or school administrator.

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