

Recommended Policy/Procedures for Your School's Walking School Bus (WSB) Program

1. Walk Leader Supervision:

- a. Volunteer Walk Leaders must register and be trained by the school as a Walk Leader. All volunteers will have a background check. Volunteers will be provided with a safety vest to wear at all times while operating the WSB.
- b. The ratio goal for supervision will be one Walk Leader to no more than 10 children. The recommendation for formal, school-based Walking School Bus Programs is to have two Walk Leaders on each route as a baseline (even if there are less than 10 children walking) then add additional Walk Leaders as needed to keep the ratio 10:1.
- c. The Walking School Bus always follows the same route. The Walk Leader(s) do not have the authority to change the route or stops without permission, unless there is a particular safety concern.
- d. The WSB follows all accepted pedestrian rules and state laws: stay on the sidewalk, stop before crossing the street as a group, cross at crosswalks, and be respectful of property and of others.
- e. Walk Leaders escort the children onto the school property.



2. Student Participation in the WSB:

- a. Children are expected to obey all adult Walk Leaders. It is recommended to use this Behavior Commitment Form ([Word](#)) ([PDF](#)) to reinforce with students and families the behavior requirements on the WSB.
- a. Walkers should arrive at the designated stop a few minutes early. The WSB waits up to one minute and then will continue on. If a child misses the Walking School Bus in the morning, parents may choose to help them catch up and join the group at a later stop or work out a backup plan.
- b. Children are not to go into other people's houses. Walkers wait on the sidewalk or in the designated area for pick up.
- c. Apartment buildings will have one designated spot for pick up and drop off.
- d. Participants must stay with the group and not wander off, run ahead or lag behind.
- e. No wheels on the bus: i.e. skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, wheelie shoes.
- f. Students are expected to carry all their belongings independently.
- g. Children can be asked to walk in pairs along the route.

3. If running an afternoon Walking School Bus:

- a. Determine if there must be a parent/guardian at home when children arrive home on the 'bus'.
- b. Students may not leave the WSB enroute or get off at a different stop unless written permission is granted from the parent/guardian.
- c. In the afternoon, if a student misses the WSB, they should report to the school office and ask to have their parent/caregiver contacted. They will wait in the office until the designated adult arrives to pick them up or until further instructions are given by the parent/guardian.