

Walking School Bus

What is a Walking School Bus?

A Walking School Bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking students to school, or as structured as a planned route with meeting points, a timetable and a schedule with multiple volunteers.

Walking School Bus: The Simple Campaign

A Walking School Bus is a fun and safe way to create another opportunity for students to be active before and after school. Below, are the key steps to starting a Walking School Bus at your school. Remember, these are just guidelines.

- Decide if the Walking School Bus campaign is a good fit for your school.
- Check in with your school principal and share your plans.
- Contact SRTS staff for free resources and more information.
- Network with parents, volunteers, and staff to gauge their interest in supporting your project.
- Choose a route (or routes) and test it with adults for safety. Contact your Safe Routes coordinator for assistance choosing a safe route.
- Decide how often you will walk together (once a month, once a week, etc).
- Put posters up around your school and outreach to families along your route(s).*
- Post a Walking School Bus article in your school newsletter and on your school's website.*
- Start leading your bus!

Walking School Bus: If You Want to Do More...

If you want to reach more students and have multiple routes, the following are ideas for doing so.

- Build a team of interested volunteers who can lead different routes.
- Identify safe routes for students coming from various locations.
- Create a Walking School Bus route with a starting point that will accommodate students being driven from outside your school boundary.
- Work with your Safe Routes coordinator to create a map of your Walking School Bus routes to distribute to students and parents.
- Develop a phone tree so it is easy to communicate with Walking School Bus leaders and volunteers.
- Spend time at your school during pick-up and drop-off hours to get a sense of school traffic congestion, student safety, and the number of students already walking to school. This will provide a pre-campaign benchmark that you can compare to post-campaign walking activities to assess impact.
- Check out the SRTS National Partnership's Walking School Bus guide for many more ideas.



Students walking at Sacramento Elementary School in NE Portland.