WHY DEVELOP A WALKING SCHOOL BUS?

Studies have shown that fewer children are walking or biking to school, and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. A walking school bus is a creative solution that is safe and fun.

WHAT IS A WALKING SCHOOL BUS?

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is, and that’s part of the beauty of the walking school bus. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school or more formal with a set of routes with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.

HOW CAN OUR SCHOOL GET STARTED?

You can start by talking to your school principal or contacting the Seattle Public Schools at: WalkingSchoolBus@seattleschools.org

SPONSORS

Seattle Public Schools
SPS Transportation Department
City of Seattle Traffic Safety Committee
Walking School Bus Committee
Feet First
Cascade Bicycle Club
Seattle Department of Transportation

The Seattle Public Schools and The Seattle Department of Transportation care about the health and safety of students, so we have set a goal to support Walking School Buses at all elementary schools. Read on to see how you can get involved!
STARTING IS SIMPLE
When beginning a walking school bus, remember that the program can always grow. It often makes sense to start small and see how it works.

Seattle Schools Transportation Department will help you pick a route that has a group of parents and children who are interested. It’s like a carpool—without a car—with the added benefits of exercise and visits with friends who live within the walking or bicycling distance to school.

TO START A WALKING GROUP:
- Invite families who live nearby to walk.
- Pick a route and take a test walk.
- Decide how often the group will walk.
- Have fun!

CHOOSE THE SAFEST ROUTE TO SCHOOL
- Look for neighborhood streets and separated paths
- Limit the number of street crossings
- Use marked crosswalks when possible
- Stop at the curb or edge of the street
- If there is no sidewalk, walk on the shoulder, on the left side facing traffic
- Look for traffic at every driveway and intersection

BENEFITS OF A WALKING SCHOOL BUS
Below are some of the possible ways that children, adults, the school, and the broader community can profit.

Children
- Have fun!
- Learn pedestrian safety while being physically active.
- Foster healthy habits that could last a lifetime.
- Arrive at school alert and ready to learn.

Parents
- Meet other families.
- Save gas required to drive to and from school.

Volunteers
- Enjoy physical activity.
- Meet other families.
- Provide a service to the school and community.

Schools
- Reduce traffic congestion around schools.
- Live with less air pollution.
- Have students who arrive on time and alert, ready to learn.

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