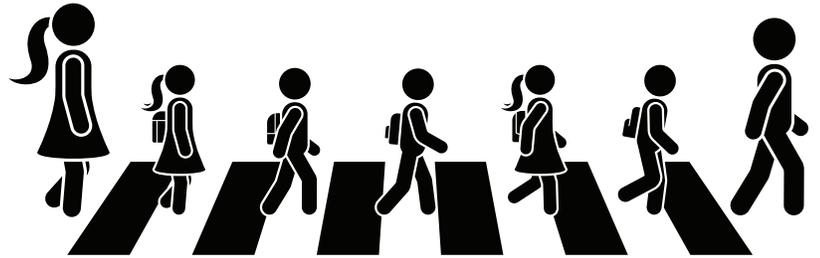


# WALKING SCHOOL BUS



## Walking School Bus (WSB) Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What is a Walking School Bus (WSB)?***

A Walking School Bus is a group of children walking to school under the supervision of a trained adult leader. Like a regular school bus, the Walking School Bus follows a fixed and safe route with designated “bus stops” and “pick up times”.

#### ***What are the benefits of a WSB?***

There are many benefits to a WSB. They include:

- Increased physical activity for the children
- Parental and community engagement
- Improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced traffic congestion in school zones
- Increased awareness/connection to geographic spaces
- Increased traffic safety awareness amongst students

#### ***Who can participate in the WSB?***

Any student attending the participating schools listed below, who wishes to walk the established WSB route, is welcome. Students using mobility aids may also participate, however, a barrier-free route cannot be guaranteed.

#### ***Which schools are participating in the WSB program?***

The schools that have been chosen to participate in the program were selected based on their commitment to promoting active transportation and walking to school. For more information on which schools are participating, including details on the routes and schedules, please visit: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/physical-activity-rest/active-school-travel/>

Additional schools may be added for the 2019-2020 school year.

#### ***Is registration required?***

Yes. Parents/guardians will be required to register their child(ren) in order to participate. An online registration form is available on the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit’s website at: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/physical-activity-rest/active-school-travel/>

Completing the application online does not guarantee a space for their child(ren). Space is limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis. The number of leaders/volunteers available per route will dictate the number of students that can participate (ratio of 1 leader: 8-10 students). When the spaces on the route have been filled, a waiting list will be created. Parents/guardians can email [WalkingSchoolBus\\_LGL@healthunit.org](mailto:WalkingSchoolBus_LGL@healthunit.org) to withdraw their child(ren) from the WSB.

Once space has been confirmed, parents/guardians will receive an email directing them to the parent package located on the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit's website.

### ***Where will students meet the WSB?***

Designated stops will be established at regular intervals along the route and this information will be sent to registered families. Students will be expected to join at the stop nearest their home. Parents/guardians are asked to arrive with their child(ren) a few minutes before the scheduled time. The WSB will not wait for late arrivals, and door-to-door or other special stops will not be offered.

### ***Can students bring their bikes, scooters, roller blades etc. on the WSB?***

No. It is a **walking** school bus only. Students using mobility aids may also participate, however, a barrier-free route cannot be guaranteed.

### ***Can parents/guardians walk with their children?***

Yes! However, the WSB Leader will be the adult in charge of the group at all times, and parents will be required to respect their authority.

### ***Can parents/guardians apply to be WSB Leaders/Volunteers?***

Yes! They can contact [WalkingSchoolBus\\_LGL@healthunit.org](mailto:WalkingSchoolBus_LGL@healthunit.org) to express interest.

### ***Will the WSB be cancelled during bad weather?***

The WSB will operate in most weather conditions, including days when the yellow school buses are cancelled. However, in the case of freezing rain or other extreme weather events, it may be cancelled. Parents/guardians will be notified no later than 30 minutes before the route is scheduled to begin.

### ***What about safety and liability?***

Each WSB will be led by a trained adult leader with Emergency First Aid and a Criminal Reference Check for the Vulnerable Sector. The ratio of leaders/volunteers per student will be 1 to 10. Routes have been predetermined and assessed for hazards by each community and will be assessed each morning by the WSB Leader. For children experiencing a medical condition on the route, leaders will only be able to provide emergency first aid care and call 911. The leader will inform the school after the incident has been managed.

For more information: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/physical-activity-rest/walking-school-bus/>