

Walking School Bus Guidelines for organizers

1. Map the route the walking bus will take.
 - Choose the safest route with the fewest and safest streets to cross.
 - Pick places where there are sidewalks or paths separated from traffic if possible.
 - Understand the traffic signs and signals related to pedestrians.
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend 1 adult for every 6 children. One adult can walk with more kids who are over 10 years of age. For 4-6 year olds, 1 adult for every 3 children is advised.
3. Have parents walk with their children and/or sign consent forms.
4. Go over basic safety rules with the children.
5. Make sure the students know you are in charge. Have a plan for dealing with disruptive students.
6. Plan how to cross streets depending on the number of children and the type of street.
 - Avoid busy, high-speed or multi-lane roads.
 - Think about how to cross, such as two by two or four across.
 - Give children exiting the street room to enter the sidewalk area.
7. Wear bright colors and use retroreflective materials. Walk leaders and children can wear fluorescent vests. In bad weather, visibility is even more important.
8. Children are not miniature adults.
 - They often act before thinking.
 - They have one-third narrower side vision.
 - They can't judge speed.
 - They are shorter than adults and can't see over cars and bushes.
9. Remember that adults are role models for children's behaviors.
10. The rewards can be great. Walking school buses help create lifelong safety skills. Children may even become safer drivers who will watch out for walkers and bicyclists.