

WALKING SCHOOL BUS



Resource #8c - Rules / Responsibilities

When creating and reinforcing the rules, remember that some students and parents may have some difficulty adjusting to a new system. The Walking School Bus (WSB) is a wonderful way to teach new values and habits to participants. It's advisable for each WSB group to discuss issues of liability together.

- Rule 1:** WSB leaders must wear their PPE at all times while participating in the WSB.
- Rule 2:** Always follow the same designated authorized route. No exceptions. If there's a problem that makes the route potentially unsafe (e.g. roadwork), report it to the school administrator who'll decide how to resolve it. Leaders/chaperones do not take shortcuts that could be hazardous, like crossing the street diagonally; walking through construction or road work; walking on the road when there is a sidewalk, etc.
- Rule 3:** Parents and caregivers are responsible for their child's safety to and from walking school bus stops. The WSB may wait a few minutes for latecomers before proceeding. The WSB will not wait for late arrivals and does not offer door-to-door pick-up or drop-off services, or any other special stops.
- Rule 4:** WSB leaders/chaperones and children DO NOT go into other people's houses. They wait either on the street outside their own house or at a designated meeting area. For those that live in apartment buildings have a collection site or meeting site where students can be picked up.
- Rule 5:** "WSB leaders/chaperones" escorts students right onto the school ground. If different groups of students have different entrances to the school, drop off students at each entrance. Do not leave children unattended.
- Rule 6:** Parents/caregivers must be home when their children arrive on the "WSB" for pick up. The WSB will wait a few minutes. Determine a back-up plan in case of emergencies and have everyone agree to it in writing. If the parent/caregiver does not arrive the leaders/chaperones will call the parent/caregiver. If no answer, the student must go back to the school to have the parent/caregiver pick them up. If a student misses the "WSB" on the way home from school, they must go to the school office and have their parent/caregiver contacted to pick them up. If the school cannot get in contact with the parent or alternate caregiver, then CFS may be called (Principal's decision).

- Rule 7:** Parents/caregivers must notify the school admin if a child will not be on the WSB (i.e. due to illness or an appointment) or if an alternate caregiver/guardian will be picking the student up. Proper ID must be presented. The Walking School Bus consent form ([Resource 9](#)) in the resources section on the website sets out caregiver responsibilities, records the days the child will and won't be using the bus and has space for emergency contact details.
- Rule 8:** The "WSB" stops on the sidewalk before crossing the street. Participants do not run ahead or lag too far behind.
- Rule 9:** Children must obey all "WSB leaders/chaperones". No horseplay on the walking school bus.
- Rule 10:** Inappropriate child behaviour - WSB is a school initiative, and all students are expected to demonstrate the respect agreements. Parents/caregivers will be notified if their child is not following WSB expectations. If the unsafe behaviour continues, parents may be notified that their child can no longer participate.

