



[Your Logo]

WALKING SCHOOL BUS Volunteer Application

Application for Walking School Bus driver:

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Age: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

SS# _____
(If the school has not already preformed a background check)

Local Address: _____
Street City State

Home phone: _____ Work
phone: _____ Cellphone: _____

Email: _____

Walking School Bus program begins [DATES OF WSB]

We will be completing a background check on all volunteers for the Walking School Bus program. Signing this form indicates your approval of the process and that you have received the walking school bus volunteer training. Thank you for your cooperation.

Signature of Applicant

Date

If you are unable to walk your route on a day you are scheduled due to illness or other conflict you will notify the WSB coordinator and your partner drivers.

[WSB Coordinator & Phone]



Parent Permission Release

I give permission for my child, _____
to participate in the [Your School] Elementary School Walking School Bus. I understand that participation
in this program is strictly voluntary and that my child will be expected to follow the rules of this program.

Parent Signature _____

Email: _____

Preferred Emergency Phone Number _____

Address _____

Please check all that apply:

morning walker _____

afternoon walker _____

my child will go to _____ after school

Student Passenger Pledge

(print full name)

- I agree to be a passenger on the Buford Garner Elementary Walking School Bus.
- I agree to walk with other children.
- I agree to arrive on time at my Walking School Bus stop.
- I agree to listen to and follow the instructions of my Walking School Bus driver(s).
- I agree to follow the Walking School Bus Rules.
- I understand that if I misbehave I may not be able to continue my participation in the Walking School Bus program.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

Student Code of Conduct



In order to get to and from school safely on the Walking School Bus we...

Respect the adult volunteers, other students, and the community

Treat others the way we would like to be treated

Walk, Don't Run

Stay on the Sidewalk

Walk Sensibly (No Horsing Around)

Walk Together as a Group

Cross Side Streets as a Group

Cross Main Streets at a Crosswalk or Intersection

Be at your designated bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is to arrive

Please contact the school coordinator if your child will not be walking

[WSB Coordinator & Phone]

Sample Letter to Parents

2/3/2012

Dear [School] Parents,

Our School is going to start a Walking School Bus program. This program gives our students the opportunity to walk to and from school, under adult supervision, instead of riding in a vehicle. Not only will it be a fantastic way for your child(ren) to start/end the school day, it will also aid in keeping him/her active and healthy. Plus, it will decrease pollution, help decrease safety hazards, and help alleviate traffic congestion at Garner during drop-off and pick-up times.

The Walking School Bus uses parent volunteers who have **passed a background check and safety training**. This "driver" walks with the students along a set route to and from the school. Along this route, school children will join in at designated "bus stops." We are presently looking at the program starting on [START DATE].

Please fill out the attached form and return it to your child's teacher by [DATE DUE] so that we can anticipate student participation, and plan routes. Parents are invited to an informational planning meeting on [INFO MEETING & LOCATION]. At this meeting, we will be able to provide more specific details and answer questions.

We look forward to bringing Garner parents together and getting this program off the ground. If you have any questions please contact parent volunteer [CONTACT NAMES]

Thank you.

Please fill out and return to your child's teacher by [DUE DATE]. Whether you plan to have your child participate or not, we would like to hear from you.

Parent/Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Student(s) Name(s) & Grade(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

(this will help us plan our routes and see the neighborhoods with the highest amount of interest)

Please Check One:

YES, I am interested in having my child(ren) participate in the Walking School Bus

No, my child(ren) will not be able to participate at this time

If you will not be participating because of a specific safety concern, please jot that down so that we can look into ways to fix it.

Sample Press Release

HOLD FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF MARCH 18, 2012

[WSB CONTACT INFORMATION]

[HEADLINE] Elementary Gets Kids Walking

[CITY / DATE] – [SCHOOL NAME] School will implement a Walking School Bus Program

Childhood obesity is at an all-time high. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) states Iowa ranks 8th in the nation for overall prevalence of this condition. An easy way to help kids be more active each day is by walking to school. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that only 13% of children walk to school today, compared with 48% of children in 1969. A fun, safe way to help combat the obesity epidemic is by implementing a Walking School Bus Program.

A Walking School Bus (WSB) is a group of children walking together with adult “drivers” to supervise. It is a similar set-up to car pooling without the car. WSBs help increase physical activity among children, help kids learn lifelong safety techniques, and prepare them to be safer drivers who watch out for pedestrians and bicyclists.

[DETAILS ON PROGRAM] Approximately 80 kids from 4 neighborhoods within one mile of the school will walk to school together. To start, the program will run one day a week, but the organizers are hopeful to expand the program.

[LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT] are also getting involved in the new program. When possible, officers will help groups of children cross busy streets, like Highway 965. Additional safety measures, such as increased patrols along Front Street and Zeller Street, will also be in place to help limit speeding and other traffic violations.

[END WITH QUOTE TO GENERATE EXCITEMENT FROM WSB COORDINATOR]

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Media Note: Media coverage is welcomed and encouraged. Children will start walking at [TIME/LOCATION]

Sample Parent Welcome Letter

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for your interest in this exciting program!

Today your child is bringing home a list of the WSB rules, and a permission slip/pledge. Of course, we need your permission for your child to join us, but we also feel it's important for your child to take responsibility for their behavior in this program, as their behavior can directly impact the safety of others. We ask that you take a few minutes to look over the rules and discuss your expectations with your child, and note the consequences for misbehavior that have been set. If you and your child are in agreement to these expectations, please have them sign the pledge and return to their teachers.

We still need some volunteers so please check your calendars and visit [website] to sign up. You will need to have passed a background check and attend a brief training to be a bus driver.

We have two training dates scheduled at this time. [DATE AND LOCATION OF MEETING]

We also have a plan in place for inclement weather.

We will also ask that if your child will not be walking that you call and let us know so that we can tell your bus driver not to expect them.

Please feel free to contact [WSB Coordinator] with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

[WSB Coordinator Contact]