



1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) believes in developing responsible decision-makers and global citizens, who contribute to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being to ensure a sustainable future for all.
- 1.2 WSD supports the use of and encourages that all elementary schools and families to establish a walking school bus (WSB) route.
- 1.3 WSD believes that student absences may result in students not feeling safe to walk to and from school unsupervised. A walking school bus provides a safe and reliable arrival/departure to and from school.
- 1.4 WSD shall assign an Educational Assistant to assist students and families with the daily transportation to and from school.
- 1.5 A minimum of 5 students/families will be required to participate in the Walking School Bus program.
- 1.6 WSD shall provide all Walking School Bus staff with Safe Travel and Emergency Response Training and the Equipment necessary to promote safe travel.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Walking School Bus

A walking school bus has a minimum of one adult who walks along a route to collect all students waiting at designated 'bus stops' and walking them to school. After school, they walk back along the same route. Families are responsible to drop off/pick up their students at the designated bus stop.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A WALKING SCHOOL BUS

- 3.1 The Principal shall survey families to determine whether there is support and a need for a walking school bus.
- 3.2 Identify the route(s)

Each 'bus' shall walk along a set route with at least one adult 'driver' picking up children at designated 'bus stops' and walking them to and from school. Bus stops can be outside children's homes or a predetermined point on the street.

Routes must ensure that the following safety measures are in place:

- a) A side walk or walkway path
 - b) Accessible for wheelchairs
 - c) Is the community environment safe
 - d) Are there crosswalks, stop signs, or traffic lights
- 3.3 One adult per three students for ages 4-6, one adult per six students for ages 7 – 9. Students over the age of 10 may require less supervision.



4. STUDENT TRAVEL

4.1 WSD believes that a walking school bus offers many benefits to the school community.

Students:

- a) Students will learn pedestrian safety under adult guidance and supervision;
- b) Promote physical activities and develop healthy habits;
- c) Learn more about their neighbourhoods, socialize with students from all grades and serve as mentors for younger students;
- d) Gain a sense of independence and develop skills of traffic and community safety.

Parents/Guardians

- a) Parents/Guardians have opportunities to meet other families;
- b) Parents/Guardians feel safe allowing their students to walk to school (ie. Traffic, personal safety, distance);

Schools:

- a) Schools will have less traffic concerns – reduces traffic around schools
- b) Students will arrive on time and absenteeism will be reduced;

5. WEATHER CONDITIONS

All Walking School Bus will be cancelled due to severe weather conditions, as issued by Environment Canada.

The Walking School Bus will be cancelled in accordance with WSD cold weather guidelines.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Superintendent/CEO

The Superintendent/CEO is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

6.2 Assistant Superintendent of Staff Support and Relations

The Assistant Superintendent of Staff Support and Relations is responsible for ensuring that Safe Travel and Emergency Response Training is provided to all Walking School Bus Staff and that they have the equipment necessary to promote safe travel.

That Assistant Superintendent of Staff, Support and Relations is responsible for the development of a Guideline to establish a Walking School Buses and procedures for safe travel.



6.3 Principal

The Principal is responsible for communicating with families to ensure both families and students understand the rules and responsibilities surrounding their participation in the walking school bus.

The Principal is responsible for monitoring weather conditions and warnings issued by Environmental Canada advising families when Walking School Buses will be cancelled to due inclement weather conditions.

6.4 Teachers

Teachers are responsible for incorporating pedestrian safety training into classroom activities, physical education classes or special assemblies at the school.

6.5 Students

Students are responsible for complying with the safety rules of a Walking School Bus.

6.6 Families

Families are responsible for:

- a) discussing pedestrian safety skills with their students;
- b) student's safety to and from bus stops;
- c) walking school bus rules/code of conduct;

7. COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

- 7.1 Any student who does not meet expectations by participating in safe travel to and from school may be suspended from the Walking School Buses Program until a safe travel plan is developed in consultation with the family.