

WALKING SCHOOL BUS PARENTAL CONSENT

2022-23 School Year

Please return this consent form to the supervising parent on your route or to the Walking School Bus Coordinator at your child's first walk. Students cannot join the group without a consent form.

Purpose and explanation of the program

The Walking School Bus program is designed to get communities to work together to get children to school actively and safely. Children who participate in the program will walk to school led by parent volunteers. Parents must bring students to designated meeting points in the morning, remain with their student until the walk begins, and be prepared to accompany their child to school if the appropriate volunteer to student ratio is not met.

Potential risks

The Walking School Bus program is intended to reduce the risk of injury to children as they travel to school through the use of adult supervision. However, there are risks associated with participation in the Walking School Bus and children walking to school. These risks include, but are not limited to, injury as a result of motor vehicle accidents, trips, falls, overexertion, or other unforeseen events. The PTSA cannot provide an exhaustive list of risks or potential dangers. Adult volunteers will do their best to appropriately supervise the participants and guide them to school safely. The Walking School Bus program runs in a variety of weather conditions, so please dress your children appropriately.

Voluntary consent

I would like my child/children to participate in the Walking School Bus. I realize that my child's/children's journey to and from school is still my responsibility. I have discussed the expectations of the Walking School Bus with my child/children, and we have reviewed the safety materials provided. By signing this Consent Form, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the safe behaviors described in the Policy on the next page, and my child/children will adhere to those behaviors or be asked to cease participation in the Walking School Bus group.

NAME OF CHILD / AGE / CLASSROOM

NAME OF CHILD / AGE / CLASSROOM

HOME ADDRESS

Please PRINT your contact information so that you can be contacted about your child(ren)'s participation in the program. Your child is not registered to walk until you receive a confirmation email with route and stop time from walkingschoolbus@irvingtonnyptsa.org

PARENT NAME / CELL PHONE (FOR EMERGENCY) / EMAIL

SIGNATURE OF PARENT / GUARDIAN / DATE

PLEASE REVIEW THE NEXT PAGE

WALKING SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM IRVINGTON NY

PLEASE RETAIN THIS POLICY FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Irvington Walking School Bus Policy

1. Once set, the Walking School Bus (WSB) always follows the same route. The parent driver does not have the authority to change the route or stops without permission.
2. In order to share supervision of other students, parents must register with the PTSA as a volunteer Driver. Any non-parent must have a background check, or can't be counted in the group of supervising adults.
3. Drivers will be provided with a reflective safety vest to wear at all times while operating the WSB. Adults wear the Drivers' vests and hold the stop signs. Kids do not hold the stop signs at crossings unless accompanied by an adult with an additional stop sign. Kids' reflective vests are available on request.
4. Walkers should arrive at their stop a few minutes early. They wait on the sidewalk or in an agreed on area for pick up. The WSB will leave each stop at the designated time. It does not wait for latecomers.
5. Apartment buildings will have one designated spot for pick up and drop off.
6. Drivers escort the walkers onto school property.
7. The ratio for supervision will be one parent to three children ages 4-6, one parent to six children ages 7-10. If an additional parent volunteer cannot be found to provide enough supervision for the walkers, the trip may have to be canceled or the last to sign up will not be able to walk.
8. Walkers must show cooperation with Drivers' directions in order to keep themselves and other walkers safe.
9. Walkers follow accepted pedestrian rules such as staying on the sidewalk or where they are directed to walk by Drivers and crossing at crosswalks.
10. Walkers must remain with the group. They do not wander off, run ahead or lag behind.
11. The bus stops on the sidewalk before crossing the street. The group crosses together with an adult at the front and back of the line.
12. Walkers are expected to carry all of their belongings independently.
13. Walkers show respect to property and kindness and respect to others, whether on the bus or as they pass. They may not go onto other people's property.
14. No electronics or wheels on the bus: i.e. skateboards, rollerblades, scooters or wheelie shoes.
15. By reserving a spot for your walker(s) and yourself each week, you help the volunteer coordinators to ensure that every walking child will have enough supervision.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact the coordinator at walkingschoolbus@irvingtonnyptsa.org. Find more information on the calendar of walks, routes and events at <https://www.irvingtonnyptsa.org/wsb>