



Walking School Bus Information



Dear Oskaloosa Community School District Parents:

In an effort to continue improving the health and safety of our students, we are excited to offer the Walking School Bus program again this year at Oskaloosa Elementary School. A group of volunteers will be walking with students to school every Wednesday morning, from **Wednesday, September 9** through **Wednesday, October 28**. WSB will pick back up on **Wednesday, March 23** through **Wednesday, May 18**.

The volunteers and students will depart from the **Lacey Sports Complex parking lot** with drop off between **7:20** and **7:29 AM**. The Walking School Bus will be departing promptly at **7:30 AM**. The Walking School Bus will walk along the recreation trail until they reach the school. If you typically drive your child to school, but are interested in having your child participate, we encourage you to drop your child off at the Lacey Complex parking lot.

Your children's participation in the Walking School Bus is **FREE** and you are not required to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Emily Brown at uwmc.coordinator@gmail.org. Your child does not have to walk every Wednesday, but in order for your child to participate they **must** be enrolled in the program.

Enrollment and consent forms for the Walking School Bus can be found on the school web page at <http://oskaloosa.k12.ia.us/blue-zones-project-partnership-walking-school-bus> or in the elementary school office. Please read over the Parent and Student Expectations document before you enroll your child.

Once your child is enrolled, they will receive a "Walking School Bus Pass". Attendance will be tracked with stickers on the back of their "Bus Pass" and kids who walk with the bus three times will receive a small prize.

If you have any questions, please contact Oskaloosa Elementary School or Emily Brown at 641.673.6043 or uwmc.coordinator@gmail.com

See you on the Bus!

Walking School Bus Expectations

Parents:

1. Safety for all parties involved is of utmost importance in our program. Parents should provide as much information as possible to appropriate school staff and the Walking School Bus Coordinator.
2. Parents are expected to complete and submit the Walking School Bus Enrollment and Consent Forms to the school by the deadline in order to enroll a child in the Walking School Bus program.
3. Parents are welcome to walk along with the Walking School Bus until you feel comfortable with the volunteers and children on the route and encouraged to participate as much or as little as your schedule permits. Feel free to volunteer whenever possible.
4. Parents can choose to either walk their child(ren) to their designated stop or children can walk to the stop by themselves.
5. Children must arrive on time at the pre-determined "bus stop" drop off location. The bus will leave the stops on time and cannot wait for children who are late. If a child misses the bus, the parent is responsible for getting them to school or catching the "bus" and telling volunteer they have joined late.
6. Parents are expected to be aware of safety procedures, incident reporting and appropriate responses to student conduct. They are all in place for the safety of the children and volunteers.
7. The Walking School Bus Coordinator, leader, or school reserves the right to ask parents or students who fail to follow the Walking School Bus expectations to cease participation in the program.
8. Most importantly, the Walking School Bus is an educational and community building program. Support it, participate in it, and above all have fun with it!

Students:

1. There will be, at a minimum, one volunteer walking in front of children and one behind. All children must stay in between volunteers.
2. All children will cross the street at the same time.
3. Children are to stop 3 feet away from street when getting ready to cross.
4. Volunteers call out "Look Left" and the "Look Right" when crossing the street.
5. No running is permitted.
6. Children must stay within crosswalk lines when crossing the street.
7. Volunteers will remind children to be aware of traffic at drive-ways, intersections and other thoroughfares.
8. Children must check in with the volunteers at their bus stop when they arrive.
9. Walking School Bus participants will be respectful of other students, the Walking School Bus leaders, the neighborhood and neighbors.
10. If participants do not follow the Walking School Bus Safety Rules, the volunteer will give one verbal warning and if the behavior persists they will notify school personnel upon arrival. The school will follow up based on their existing protocol.

**OES Walking School Bus
Enrollment & Photo Release Form**

1. Please print information below:

- a. Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
- b. Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
- c. Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
- d. Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

2. Please circle which days your child(ren) will be participating.

- a. Wednesday
- b. Potential expansion of days offered for Walking School Bus

3. Circle how your child(ren) typically gets to school each day.

- a. Walks to school by themselves
- b. Walks with a friend
- c. Walks with an adult
- d. Is driven and dropped off at the school
- e. Other

4. Please print the parent/guardian contact information:

- a. Parent/Guardian Name: _____
- b. Parent/Guardian Telephone number: _____ (cell) _____ (home)
- c. Parent Guardian Address: _____
- d. Emergency contact (other than parent/guardian): _____
- e. Emergency contact phone number: _____

Parental Consent

I wish for my child(ren) to participate in the walking school bus. He/She will be at their assigned stop by the designated arrival time. I realize that my child's journey to school is still my responsibility even though they will be using the Walking School Bus. If my child is not at the designated stop by the arrival time, I understand that they may not be able to participate that day and transportation to school for that day will be my responsibility. I have read the parent expectations and my child has reviewed the Student Expectations. We both understand and agree to the role and responsibilities we both have as a parent or a participant in the walking school bus.

Name (printed) of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Photo Release

I grant Blue Zones Project® the right to use my child(ren) photo or video to promote the Walking School Bus program. I also allow my child(ren) name to be listed among participants. I hereby release and waive all rights/privileges associates with this photo or video. I hereby release Blue Zones Project from any liability that may result from the use of my image as part of publicity efforts.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Return this form to the United Way of Mahaska County office:

Mail: Attn. Emily Brown 500 High Ave West – PO Box 761 – Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577 **Fax:** 641-672-1169