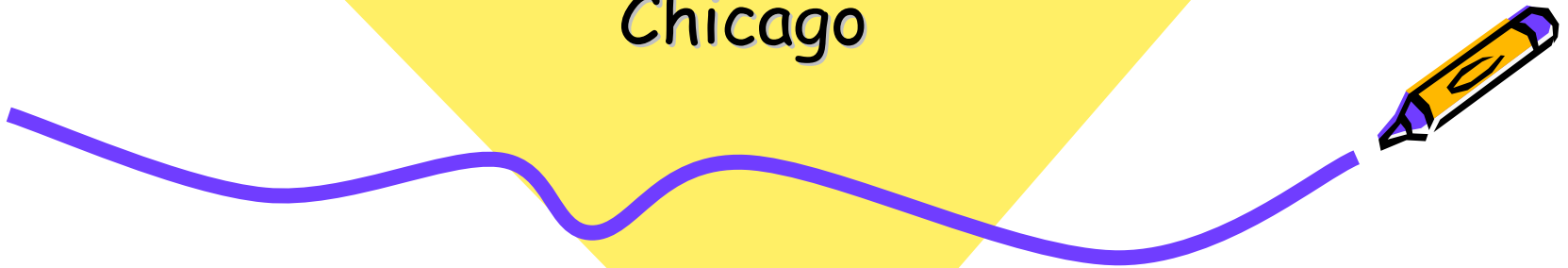




# Chicago's Walking School Bus Protecting Our Children

Working Together For A Safer Healthier  
Chicago



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

Working Together For A Safer and Healthier Chicago

Chicago is a large urban city with about 90% of the 422,000 public school children walking to school.

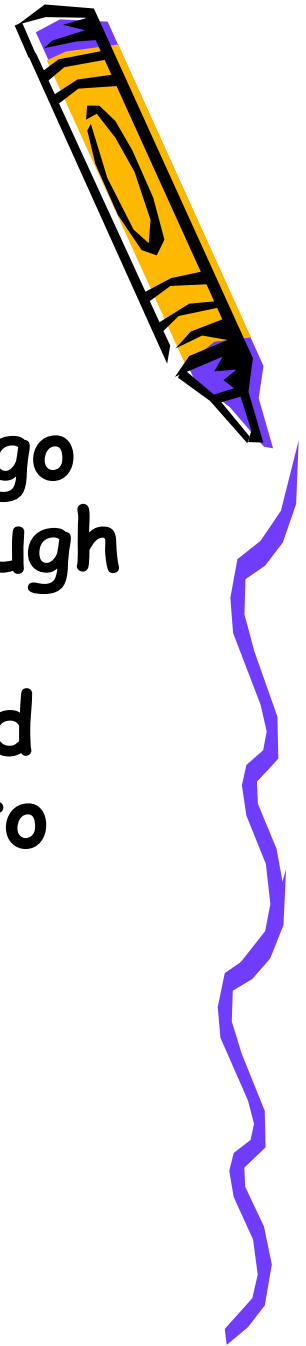
Parents & other caregivers face challenges concerning their children. Many fear the danger that guns, drug, strangers and speeding traffic pose to their young ones as they walk to and from school.



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

Working Together For A Safer and Healthier Chicago

Over the years, the City of Chicago and the Police Department, through its Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) have encouraged and supported children's ability to continue to walk to school with a program called Operation Safe Passage that started 1997.



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

Working Together For A Safer and Healthier Chicago

A good education and health are essential, but for our children to develop their full potential, they must have safe, secure environment in which to learn, and not just within the school walls.

Our young people also need to travel to and from school safely, without threats from traffic, gangs, shootings, drugs or any other source of harm.



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

Working Together For A Safer and Healthier Chicago

Others worry that their children might be accosted or abducted.

Statistics support those fears, particularly as they apply to traffic. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of children between five and 15 years of age.

While representing only 16% of the U.S. population, children account for 30% of all pedestrian injuries.



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

Working Together For A Safer and Healthier Chicago



The Walking School Bus programmatic focus on student's trips to/from school is an effort to reverse that situation.

The program provides a consistent, supervised system in which children can walk to school under the watchful eyes of adults.

The greatest resource of any community is its children.

They, after all, represent our future.



# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

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This is why the City of Chicago and the Chicago Police Department through CAPS partnership, have developed programs designed to maintain high standards of safety. The success of these programs depends largely on parental and community involvement.

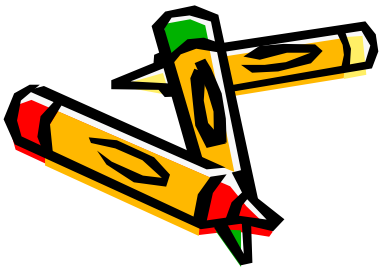


# Chicago's Waking School Bus Protecting Our Children...

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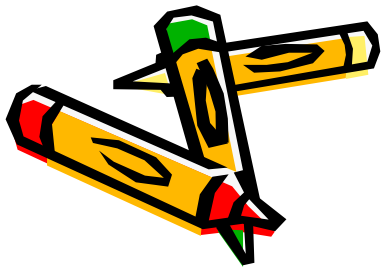
## Mission Statement:

The mission of the CAPS Implementation office is to foster partnerships among community residents and institutional stakeholders, police and other City agencies to pro-actively address chronic crime and disorder problems across Chicago.



# What's a Waking School Bus?

- The CAPS Implementation Office Walking School Bus Program is just like “car pooling”.
- Instead of parents taking turns *driving* children to school, the Walking School Bus Program involves parents *walking* children to school.



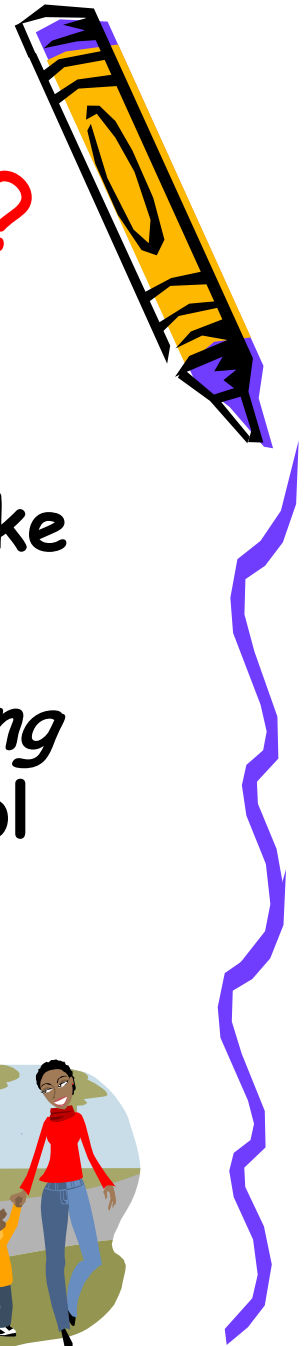
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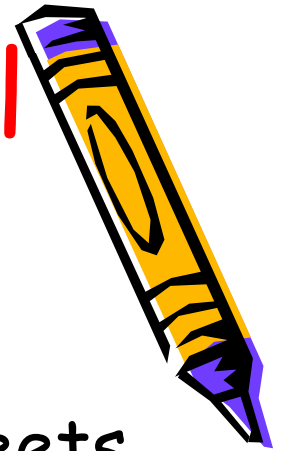
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# WHY have a Waking School Bus Program?



## YOU SHOULD KNOW...

The absence of pedestrians from the streets deprives communities of one of the best deterrents to crime- the presence of people who observe activity in their neighborhoods.

**CRIMINALS DON'T LIKE BEING WATCHED.**

Unfortunately, the "eyes on the streets" that residents provide by walking, have been replaced with neighborhood battles over parking and other traffic-related problems.



# WHY have a Waking School Bus Program? cont...



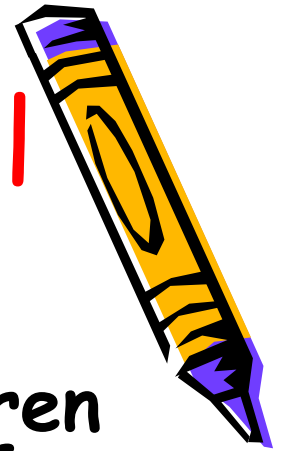
Parents often respond to their fears by chauffeuring their children to/from school, the local park, and even to the corner grocery store.

Because children are increasingly driven instead of walking, streets have become less safe.

Simply observe the traffic jams and driver frustration in front of schools during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods.



# WHY have a Waking School Bus Program? cont...



When not supervised by an adult, children often fail to obey the safety rules of the road.

46% of traffic accidents involving children as pedestrians, occur when the child darts out into the street, without first checking traffic.

Adults, by accompanying children when they walk, can help them develop the perceptual skills needed to anticipate and react to traffic.



# WHY have a Walking School Bus Program? cont...



- **EFFECTS OF HAVING A WALKING SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM**

- Walking School Bus program is citywide and includes over 4,000 volunteers.
- Every school in Chicago distributes the "Safe Passage to and from Chicago Public Schools" booklet.
- Parents increase "eye on the street" and can quickly identify problem intersections and criminal activity.

- **OUTCOME**

- The Chicago Walking School Bus program is a well established and organized program. The key with the Walking School Bus program is flexibility.
- Consideration to principals, keeping volunteers motivated, and being creative are key.



# The BENEFITS of the Walking School Bus Program

**MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE WSB  
AFFORDS THE COMMUNITY WITH...**

An organized & consistent presence of adults on the street who can identify potential crime and disorder problems and notify the appropriate authorities to solve them.



# The BENEFITS of the Walking School Bus Program cont...

- To provide a safe environment in which youth can walk to and from school
- Reduced number and severity of traffic accidents
- Cost savings by reducing the need for new school parking and drop-off facilities
- Improved pedestrian safety for the entire community.



# The BENEFITS of the Walking School Bus Program cont...

- Reduced traffic congestion and dangers around schools
- Physically active & healthier children and adults
- Reduced noise & pollution, which causes health problems
- Increased interaction among neighbors
- Introduction of positive adult role models to children
- Builds healthy relationships between youth and adults
- Protect children from bullies, which will relieve stress that causes other health issues.



# HOW TO START a Walking School Bus Program

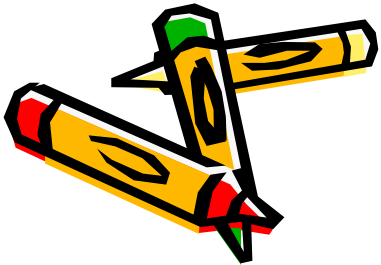


1. Meet with school representatives
2. Pass out information to parents
3. Coordinate with C.A.P.S. for proper training and official WSB materials



# The ELEMENTS of the Walking School Bus Program

Have your group meet with CAPS Staff to solicit volunteers for the Walking School Bus & Parent Patrol Program.



# The ELEMENTS of the Walking School Bus Program



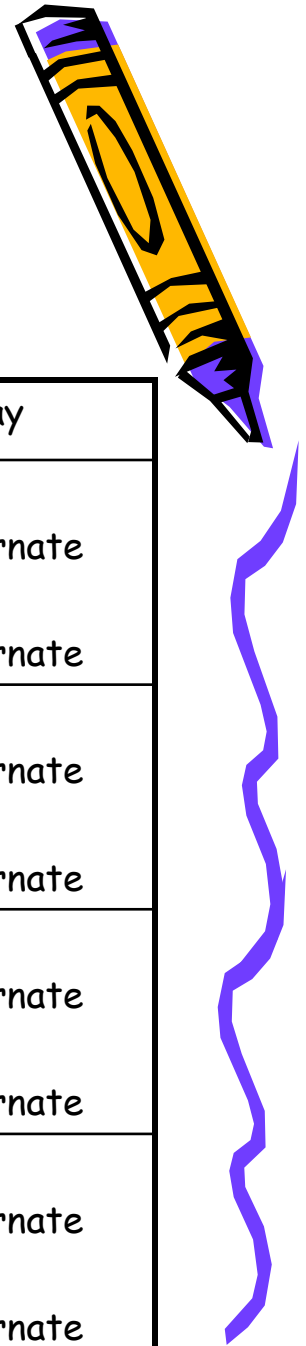
Parents & school officials determine what the Walking School Bus routes will be based on where students live.

Ideally every school has multiple "school bus" routes and nucleus of parents and caregivers along each route who will serve as "drivers".

The "driver" follows a designated route, walks past the houses of students who join in the walk to school.. In the afternoon, the procedure is reversed. The "driver" leads the students from school, back along the same route to their homes- providing supervision for the entire trip.



# The Walking School Bus Sample Route Schedule



Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate
	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate
	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate
	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate	Am: Alternate P.M. Alternate





The Chicago Police Department and your  
Child's School Need Parents and Community  
Members to join the

# CAPS Parent Patrol and Walking School Bus programs

Our children face challenges as they go through their young lives.  
Getting to/from school isn't something they should have to worry about.

Working with your local school's parent patrol and walking School Bus will help to ensure the safety of your community's children and let them focus on the important business of learning. To become part of this important partnership, please complete the form below and fax it to (312) 747-1137.

Yes, I am interested in participating in my local Parent Patrol or Walking School Bus!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TOGETHER WE CAN... Make our neighborhood safer for all of us!

