

Walking School Bus Overview*

About Kid Commute – a Walking School Bus (WSB) Initiative

Kid Commute is a WSB initiative funded by TransLink and the City of Vancouver and delivered by the Society for Children and Youth of BC (SCY) in partnership with the Vancouver School District. A WSB is an organized group of children who travel to and from school on foot with the support of one or more adult Walk Leaders.

WSB programs are a tried-and-tested way to encourage physical activity and active travel in children. They encourage students to build new friendships and a sense of community, as well as reduce vehicle congestion near schools at pick-up and drop-off times. A WSB is also a proven avenue for addressing student absenteeism and tardiness.

Society for Youth and Children of BC will:

- Undertake school community engagement (in-person promotion, school communication materials, assessment of school active travel needs)
- Recruit student participants
- Recruit, screen, and train WalkLeaders
- Design WSB routes
- Provide program equipment (leader vests, leader backpacks, incentives)
- Provide program oversight
- Schedule Walk Leaders
- Monitor and respond to feedback from families
- Collect data on active travel
- Produce a final WSB report

School Responsibilities:

- Notify the school community about Kid Commute
- Distribute SCY's communication materials
- Support SCY in organizing in-person engagement with the school community (Pop-up booths at school functions, classroom engagement, presentations at PAC meetings)
- Provide program volunteers (2-4 adults leading the group daily at drop-off and pick-up)
- Support recruitment of participants and volunteers wherever possible
- Support student and parent survey distributions
- Provide two Kid Commute points of contact at the school (an administrator and a parent/guardian)
- Support SCY in data collection

**Excerpt from 2023 Walking School Bus Expression of Interest form*