

# WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

## October 10, 2018



## Walking School Bus Guide

Partner with LADOT to plan out a specific route for Walk to School Day in your neighborhood.

### 1 PLAN MEETING LOCATIONS

Meeting locations should be about 1/4 - 1/2 mile from the school so volunteer chaperones can get there in time to walk with the group before the school day starts. Walking in large groups can take longer, so allow ample time.

#### **Park & Go:**

Pick a designated meeting area within walking distance of the school that will enable families to park their cars and walk to school. If parents won't be required to walk with their children, then adult chaperones should be ready to travel to school with students.

#### **Ride & Go:**

If your school is a magnet school, or many kids arrive by transit, pick a meeting area and time at the stop within walking distance, and assign volunteer chaperones to that location.

#### **Multiple Meet-Ups**

Designate meeting points that match the different directions that students come from. Each route can have a special name such as the "Southern Neighborhood Cyclists" or "West Street Walking School Bus." Groups depart from respective locations and times advertised on the flyers and meet at the school.

Publicize the routes and include departure times. Identify at least one person to act as chaperone at each remote meeting point. This person can make safety announcements and get the group walking on time.

### 2 CONSIDERATIONS FOR USING DESIGNATED MEETING POINTS

- » Possible locations might include a library, park, grocery store or church.
- » Make sure there is enough parking.
- » Obtain permission to use the location from the property owner before publicizing the event.
- » Think about how far the location is from the school and what route the group will take.
- » Try walking the route once, with a child if you can.
- » Sometimes the longer route is better if it has safer facilities like sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals as opposed to a more direct route.
- » It may be helpful to hand out route maps to parents, teachers and other adult participants.

For additional information and event support materials, please visit [walktoschool.lacity.org](http://walktoschool.lacity.org)

- » Suggested route maps are available for all LAUSD Schools at: [www.lausd-oehs.org/saferoutestoschools.asp](http://www.lausd-oehs.org/saferoutestoschools.asp). Use these maps to locate crossing guards and traffic signals.
- » Consult with LADOT on preferred walking routes between the school and the meeting locations by phone at (323) 942-9873 or email at [ladot.saferoutes@lacity.org](mailto:ladot.saferoutes@lacity.org).
- » Choose a route where children have room to walk on the sidewalk and where the environment feels safe.
- » Select crossing locations with traffic controls such as traffic signals or stop signs, and if available, use crossing guards.
- » Allow plenty of time for the walk.

### 3 GREAT IDEAS FOR GROUP WALKING

Event organizers say that students really enjoy being involved in the preparations for an organized group walk. Encourage students to make signs and banners that they can carry during the parade.

- » Invite the school mascot or wear school colors while walking.
- » Carry colorful balloons and signs with safety messages during the walk.
- » Decorate some of the route sidewalks with sidewalk chalk before the event.
- » Include local elected officials or other notable community figures in the fun.

### 4 SAFETY TIPS FOR CHAPERONES

- » The organizer will share the Walking Safety Tips and the planned routes with the chaperones before they leave the school to go to their meeting points.

- » Chaperones shall wear identifying apparel and be pre-qualified by LADOT.
- » Chaperones will share the Walking Safety Tips handout with the families and children, and briefly discuss them, before beginning the walk to school.
- » As the departure times of the routes are advertised on the flyer, the chaperones can and should leave on time. Families that miss the walking school bus can catch up or walk on their own.

### 4 SAFETY TIPS FOR STUDENTS

#### Be Visible

Wear bright colors.

#### Be Predictable

Walk single file and stay on the sidewalk.

#### Cross Safely

Use designated crossing locations. Be respectful of crossing guards. Always stop at the curb edge; look left, right, front, and behind. Before crossing, wait for all traffic to stop, including turning vehicles. When it is clear, walk cautiously and deliberately, looking around the whole time.

#### Be Alert

Make eye contact with drivers who may be turning. Watch for cars backing up.

#### Don't Walk and Talk (on a cell phone)

If you must use a cell phone, stop walking and find a safe area to talk.

#### Be Aware of Stranger Danger

Choose a walking route that is often used by other walkers, joggers and bicyclists. If you see someone suspicious, be prepared to change your course or go into a store or public building to avoid them.