

**2013 Walking School Bus Pilot Project**  
**Irving Elementary School May 6-10, 2013**  
**Liberty Elementary School May 13-17, 2013**



**Walking School Bus Pilot Project Summary**

A walking school bus (WSB) coalition was formed the beginning of April as a result of a grant that Siouxland District Health Department received from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Federal funds in the amount of \$4850 were received to implement two WSB pilot projects at two elementary schools in Sioux City. Coalition membership included representatives from Sioux City Community School District, administration and a parent representative from participating elementary schools, Siouxland District Health Department, IPHA AmeriCorps HealthCorps, SIMPCO, City of Sioux City, and HealthWays/BlueZones.

This coalition was instrumental in the success of the WSB pilot project in Sioux City. The coalition developed WSB policies and procedures and performed a walking route audit to ensure safety of the walking route and bus stop locations. One map for each school was created. The map highlighted the route and the bus stops. Irving Elementary had 4 pre-established "bus stops" and Liberty Elementary had three. The coalition also created a registration and consent form in both English and Spanish, developed and printed a bus stop pass for each participant, as well as bus stop signage and hand-held WSB signs. The group determined, ordered, and distributed daily incentives to participants. Volunteers were also recruited, screened and trained prior to the WSB project.

Students pre-registered for the WSB by completing a walking school bus registration and consent form. These were sent home in the Thursday take home folders. Parent link phone messages were sent out to all households in the participating school 1-2 times prior to the event to encourage participation. The bus passes contained the students name, grade, bus stop location, and arrival time on the front of the bus pass and safety information and WSB rules were printed on the back of the bus pass. The bus passes were laminated and placed on a lanyard donated by the Army National Guard. These were then provided to all participants the week prior to the WSB.

On the mornings of the WSB, volunteers arrived early to volunteer check-in where they received the WSB supplies and assignment and then proceeded to their designated bus stop. As the students arrived, the volunteers checked in them in, passed out "walking is fun" stickers, and punched the student's bus passes. The volunteers then lined up students in pairs on the side walk and began walking to the next bus stop at a pre-established departure time. They then joined the students and volunteers at the next bus stop. This continued until all students were picked up by the WSB. The entire WSB then walked the remainder of the route until they arrived at the school. Each day the students participated, they were given a small incentive upon their arrival to school. Items such as a water bottle, bracelet, back pack tag, pencils and bike reflectors, and a rain poncho were given to the students. On Friday, the students who walked all five days were included in a drawing for a bike and a helmet. One lucky student from each school won the grand prize.

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**Irving Elementary School Walking School Bus Pilot Project Statistics**

The Irving Elementary School Walking School Bus (WSB) project was held in the morning each day the week of Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. A total of 58 Irving Elementary School students participated and a total of 32 volunteers helped to make the event a success. Below you will find the number of kids that participated and the number of community members who volunteered each day.

<b>Irving WSB Dates</b>	<b>Number of Kids</b>	<b>Number of Volunteers</b>
Monday, May 6 <sup>th</sup>	43	29
Tuesday, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	48	17
Wednesday, May 8 <sup>th</sup>	52	23
Thursday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>	46	16
Friday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>	57	16

**Liberty Elementary School Walking School Bus Pilot Project Statistics**

The Liberty Elementary School WSB project was held in the morning each day the week of Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. A total of 62 Liberty Elementary School students participated and a total of 29 volunteers helped to make the event a success. Below you will find the number of kids that participated and the number of community members who volunteered each day.

<b>Liberty WSB Dates</b>	<b>Number of Kids</b>	<b>Number of Volunteers</b>
Monday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	46	22
Tuesday, May 14 <sup>th</sup>	52	19
Wednesday, May 15 <sup>th</sup>	51	17
Thursday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>	58	14
Friday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	54	17

**Next Steps:** As a result of this pilot project several schools have already expressed interest in offering a WSB program during the 2013-2014 school year. Those schools are; Irving, Liberty, Spalding Park, Unity, Bryant, and Nodland. The Blue Zones Walking School Bus Committee will provide support to the interested schools.

**Special Thank You to the following organization/businesses for their support of the Walking School Bus project:** Target, Hy-Vee, Sam’s Club, Army National Guard, Sioux City Paint and Decorating, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Bicycle Coalition, City of Sioux City Parks and Recreation, Salvation Army, Woodbury County Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Policing, Sunnybrook Community Church, Augustana Lutheran Church, Central Baptist Church, Ministerios Dios Es Amor, Mary Treglia Community House, Siouxland Women’s Health Care, and Fitch & Graves, CPA.