



THE AGE-FRIENDLY WALKING SCHOOL BUS (WSB) PILOT PROGRAM

Are you a busy parent interested in your children walking to school, but unable to walk them due to time constraints or distance? Interested in reducing the stress associated with the morning rush or your carbon footprint? Or are you an older adult or senior in the community looking for a unique opportunity to volunteer, join a walking group or meet the families in your neighbourhood?

If so, walk with us! Take the lead! Join the **Age-Friendly Walking School Bus (AFWSB) Pilot Program**, a formal and innovative version of traditional walking school bus programs, where **students are formally registered at school** and **led by registered WSB volunteers*** such as parents, guardians, older adults or seniors** from the school community, **following a convenient and safe walking route to school and a fixed schedule -- just like a typical School Bus!**

This pilot is the 'age-friendly version' of a **HRCE-funded and approved WSB school based program** that was successfully tested for 4 weeks at Bedford South School in the Spring of 2019, and successfully expanded to a full-year program at two other schools in 2019. That pilot was also intended to incorporate older adults as WSB leaders in the spring of 2020, and had to be put on hold due to Covid-19, but **it was re-launched last Spring at Sir Charles Tupper Elementary and it is ready to roll again this fall.**



The program is **free** and **open** to all families who want their children to regularly walk to school but can only walk with them once or twice a week. Two routes were created at Sir Charles Tupper last spring, but more will be created this fall.

AFWSB walking routes and groups will be determined based on participants' address and not to exceed 10-15 min or 1.6 km max. walking distance to school (see [sample](#) route map). Students who live over 1.6 km from school and are driven can also participate by joining the Walking School Bus at any of the WSB starting points or designated stops along the way.

This pilot program will operate daily **Monday to Friday, in the morning only** (or 2-5 days a week depending on the number of families who sign up in a specific area), **from October 20 to November 14, 2025.**

The more families who sign-up the more WSB groups there will be for students to join. **But space is limited to 50 families.**

- To secure a spot in the program parents/guardians must **pre-register online by Monday, October 3**, at <https://bit.ly/4gsnBVW>.
- To **sign-up as a community volunteer AFWSB leader** for one of the walking groups (TBD) please visit <https://bit.ly/41RdG6j>.

To learn more how the program works please check out:

- **the 4 minute AFWSB video** we did about our first AFWSB pilot at SCT (see QR or <https://bit.ly/42xSgLA>);
- **the FAQ document** (see QR or <https://bit.ly/4mceJVz>); and,
- contact **Natalia Diaz-Insense** at ndiazinsense@gmail.com.



Or join one of **the in-person or online** information sessions.

INFO SESSIONS

Drop-in: Sept. 18 @ 6:30-7:30 pm
Sept. 23, 24 & 25 @ 4-5 pm

Zoom: Sept. 23, 24 & 25 @ 9-10 am
Sept. 23, 24 & 25 @ 12-1 pm
Sept. 23, 24 & 25 @ 6-7 pm

Zoom Info Session sign-up at <https://bit.ly/467xmp7>

NOTES

* As noted on the FAQ, following HRCE volunteer guidelines both a Criminal Records Check with vulnerable sector search, and Child Abuse Check are required, but contact the program coordinator if the cost of getting these is a barrier.

**A small honorarium will be provided to older adults or seniors from the community who join the program in appreciation for their time!

