Walking School Bus
WSB "Driver" Policies and Responsibilities

Introduction:

Thank you very much for agreeing to be a volunteer Walking School Bus "Driver."

The Walking School Bus program is a fun, safe, and effective way to provide children opportunities for:
        (1) daily physical exercise
        (2) social interaction with peers
        (3) exposure to caring adults outside the family.
As a WSB "Driver," you will be providing an invaluable service to the children in your team. To insure the success of the program and the safety of the children, we ask you to agree to carry out the following responsibilities and uphold the following policies:

General Responsibilities:

1. Before the program, you will complete the WSB "Driver" Training/Orientation and agree to a criminal background check.

2. By September 8, 2006, you or your partner will telephone each family on your route to introduce yourself, confirm the pick-up time and location for their child(ren), and answer any questions they may have. If children will only walk on certain days, make a note not to expect those children on those days.

3. On your designated mornings, you will walk the designated route (typically 1 mile) at the designated time (typically, between 8:00 and 8:30 am), collect children at the designated Walk Stops and deliver them safely to school.

4. On the first morning of the program and at regular intervals, you will emphasize the importance of road safety to the children, and review the points on the yellow Safety Card.

5. Throughout the program, you or your partner will lead a Walking School Bus Team of 5-10 children to school every day according to the WSB "Driver" Rotation.

Safety Policies (see yellow Safety Card for details)

As the WSB "Driver," it is your responsibility to be extremely visible to motorists. Please wear your green reflective vest or yellow WSB t-shirt every day.

Here are the six rules to apply to your team of children
        * Walk, Don't Run
        * Stay on the Sidewalk
        * Walk Sensibly (No Horsing Around)
        * Walk Together as a Group
        * Cross Side Streets as a Group
        * Cross Main Streets at a Crosswalk or Intersection

Safety Policies (continued)

Consequences if a child fails to follow safety rules:
    First Offence: Warning and phone call to parents
    Second Offence: Suspension for one week
    Third Offence: Expulsion from program

As a "Driver," you may use discretion if offences are minor. Please inform WSB Coordinator of any problems.

Cancellation/Absenteeism Policies:

Bad Weather: The WSB Coordinator (not the "Drivers") will cancel all WSBs if:
    * Temperature is below 25 degrees.
    * It is raining hard enough to wet children's clothes.
    * There is a severe weather warning in the area.
In any of these cases, the WSB Coordinator will telephone all WSB "Drivers" before (Time). You (the WSB "Driver") will then telephone all families on your route before (Time).

Illness or Other Conflict: If you (the scheduled WSB "Driver") are ill or otherwise unavailable:
    * Telephone your partner and try to make a trade.
    * Telephone the WSB Coordinator (xxx-xxx-xxxx).
Please give as much notice as possible.

Child Fails to Show Up at Walk Stop: If a child is ill or otherwise unable to walk, the child's family should call the WSB Coordinator who will then telephone you. If a child fails to show at the Walk Stop without prior notice, you will wait 2-3 minutes and then continue to school and telephone the family from the school office to inform them.

Tracking Policies:

Each day, you will:
    * Record which kids walked.
    * Note any good or bad occurrences.

Each Friday after completing the walk to school, you will:
    * Call or email to give your weekly report (number of kids walking each day; good/bad events, etc.)

Program Evaluation: Evaluation form will be distributed during program.

+++

I agree to uphold the policies of the WSB Program and carry out the responsibilities of the WSB "Driver."

Signature _____   Date _____