

2023 Walking School Bus Expression of Interest

The purpose of this form is to provide background information about **Kid Commute – a Walking School Bus (WSB)** initiative, and to explore your school’s level of interest and capacity to participate in the program leading up to and following the **Fall 2023 launch**.

About Kid Commute

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.

SCY will be delivering a WSB program at **three elementary schools** in the Vancouver School District. Beginning in September 2023, the WSB will run daily at school pick-up and drop-off times. This form will help SCY, the Vancouver School District and the City of Vancouver’s School Active Travel team in identifying which schools to bring this opportunity to. We are seeking applications from candidate schools that are interested in the program and have the community volunteer capacity to participate.

SCY will:

- Undertake school community engagement (in-person promotion, school communication materials, assessment of school active travel needs)
- Recruit student participants
- Recruit, screen, and train Walk Leaders
- 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

Your school will:

- 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

Next Steps

1. Please complete this form to the best of your ability and submit it via email to mina@scyofbc.org by **April 7th**. **Please note this form requires a signature from the School Principal**. The completion of this form does not guarantee participation, as spaces are limited.
2. The Kid Commute team will review all submissions and invite a select number of schools to participate in the program. All schools can anticipate a response by **May 5th**.

| Your Contact Information | |
|--|---|
| First Name: | Last Name: |
| Email Address: | Phone Number: |
| School Association (e.g., Principal, Staff, PAC Executive, Parent): | |
| School Contacts | |
| School Name: | |
| Principal Name: | Email Address: |
| Principal Signature: | |
| PAC Chair Name: | Email Address: |
| School Information | |
| <u>Bell Schedule</u> Start of instruction bell time: End of instruction bell time: Does your school have any variation in schedule (e.g., early dismissal)? If so, please list: | Grade levels served: Student enrolment (September 2022): |
| Does your school host any district programs (e.g., French Immersion, fine art, etc.)? If so, please list: | |
| Is there any other information about your school that you would like to share? | |

Interested Community Member Contact

A successful WSB will rely on the engagement and participation of parents, teachers, administrators, and other members of the school community. If there is a member of the school community with a noted interest in WSB programs, school active travel, or community initiatives generally, we would love to reach out to them.

Note that each school participating in Kid Commute will be required to provide two school points of contact for the program (ideally a school administrator and a school parent or guardian).

Please note that this section is **optional** and is not a requirement for consideration to the program. Individuals identified below are under **no obligation** to act as the school's Kid Commute point of contact.

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| Name: | Email Address: |
| Name: | Email Address: |

School Expression of Interest

1. What are some specific barriers students face when active travelling to/from your school?

(Check any/all that apply)

- Unsafe neighborhood
- Infrastructural barriers (crossing busy streets, no sidewalks)
- Residential proximity to school
- Family time constraints
- No adult available to escort younger students
- Other (please specify): _____

2. What do you see as the most important outcomes of a WSB at your school? (Please select your top 3)

- Reduction of vehicle congestion at school drop-off/pick-up
- Improved air quality and reduction of carbon footprint
- Increased activity levels in students
- To promote children's independence
- To provide support and structure to students currently walking to school
- To foster social connections between students
- To create an environment that strengthens the school community and social capital
- To address student tardiness and absenteeism
- Other (please specify): _____

3. Is this expression of interest for Kid Commute supported and approved by the Principal?

Please note this form requires a signature from the School Principal.

- Yes No

4. Is this expression of interest for Kid Commute supported and approved by your school PAC Chair?

Yes No Unsure

If yes, please provide the dates of your next two PAC meetings: _____ , _____

Can one of these meetings accommodate a guest speaker?

Yes No Unsure

5. Does your school have data on student residential proximity to school?

Yes No Unsure

6. Does your school have data on how many students are currently walking/rolling to school?

Yes No Unsure

7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school's interest in participating in Kid Commute?

School Expression of Interest - WSB Model Preference

Kid Commute will be delivered through one of the following two models at each school:

- A. *Volunteer Leader Model: Where the WSB leaders are volunteers from the school and local community; often these are school parents and caregivers. We will be enlisting 2-4 volunteer leaders to lead the WSB daily at pick-up and drop-off times.*
- B. *Paid Leader Model: Where the WSB leaders are contracted individuals who are financially compensated for their time leading a WSB. This model will require 1-2 school volunteers to support the paid leader daily at pick-up and drop-off times.*

*In total, we will be delivering **two volunteer-led WSB's** and **one WSB led by a paid leader** in Vancouver.*

8. Please indicate your school's preference of WSB model. *We will be considering more school applicants for a volunteer model WSB than for a paid leader model WSB. Please note that you are welcome to apply within both categories by selecting both options.*

- Volunteer leader model
- Paid leader model

If you would like to provide a reason for your preference, please do so here:

9. Does your school community have experience running or participating in programs/initiatives that are supported by volunteers from within the school community?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please specify:

10. What is the probability of recruiting 2-4 individuals from within your school community as volunteer Walk Leaders responsible for leading your WSB daily?

- Absolute
- Very likely
- Possible
- Unlikely
- Absolutely not

11. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your school community or volunteer capacity?

Thank you for completing this Expression of Interest! Please submit it via email to mina@scyofbc.org by **April 7th**. *Please note this form requires a signature from the School Principal.* The completion of this form does not guarantee participation, as spaces are limited.

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