

BANGOR SCHOOL

D E P A R T M E N T
Academic Excellence *for All*



Walking School Bus Programs

September 19, 2017

What is a Walking School Bus?

- Volunteer “walk leaders” pick students up at designated stops along a specific route and walk them to school
- Walk leaders include school staff, parents and community members



Participating Schools

- Abraham Lincoln School
- Vine Street School
- Downeast School



Goals for Students



- Engage students in physical activity to start the day
- Foster a healthy habit that could last a lifetime
- Gain a sense of independence
- Provide instruction and practice to learn pedestrian safety
- Strengthen relationships between students, staff and community members
- Arrive at school alert and ready to learn

Benefits for Parents

- Meet other families
- Address concerns about allowing their child to walk to school
- Save gas driving to and from school



Benefits for Volunteers

- Enjoy physical activity
- Meet other families
- Provide a service to the school and community



Benefits for Schools

- Reduce traffic congestions around schools
- Have students arrive alert and on time
- Provide supervision for students walking to school



Programs Across Maine

- Bangor
- Portland
- Lewiston
- Norway
- Waterville
- Ellsworth



Documented Achievements

- Improves student learning
- Improves behavior
- Fosters relationships
- Reduces absenteeism



Sponsored in Bangor By

- Bicycle Coalition of Maine
- Maine Center for Disease Control
- Maine Department of Transportation

University of Maine Football



Bangor Savings Bank



Bangor Fire & Police Departments



Sources

- University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center, National Center for Safe Routes to School. *The Walking School Bus: Combining Safety, Fun and the Walk to School*,
- Personal communication with Darcy Whittemore, Education Program Manager, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, 2017-2018.
- Personal communication with Erik da Silva, Education Program Coordinator, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, 2017-2018.