

INCORPORATING BUS RIDERS INTO YOUR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL EVENTS



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TRAILSFORYOUTH.ORG

TOPICS COVERED TODAY



- Why incorporate bus riders
- Helpful Background facts on busing
- How to incorporate bus riders

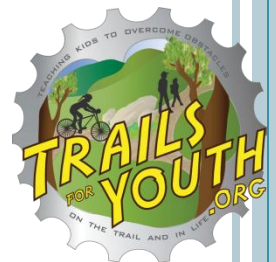


WHY INCORPORATE BUS RIDERS?

- Buy in from the School
 - Schools may look more favorable on programs that address all students as opposed to select students
- Safety
 - Students that are bused to school are also pedestrians at some point in their life, learning safe sustainable habits at an early age will make a difference in their behavioral patterns
- Health
 - 25,000,000 students transported by bus (about 50% of total students)* are at same risk of obesity as those who currently are driven by personal vehicle



**According to School Transportation News*



SCHOOL BUS/DRIVER FACTS

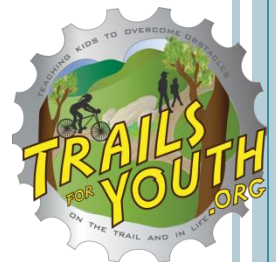
- 450,000 school bus drivers in the United States
- Average bus driver earns approximately \$28,000 plus benefits**
- Budget cuts and higher diesel prices are resulting in reduced school bus service
- Two associations represent the drivers and school bus contractors
 - National School Transportation Association
 - National Association for Pupil Transportation

***Bureau of Labor Statistics*



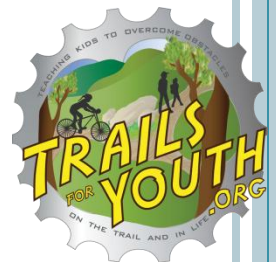
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION -WEBSITE

- The yellow School bus is the safest, most economical, energy-responsive and environmentally –friendly means to transport our children to and from school.
- There is an important link between the yellow school bus and the performance of our children in the classroom; ensuring access to the school bus helps to ensure access to educational services and ultimately educational attainment.
- It is preferable that all children ride on yellow school buses but in those areas where this is not possible, children should be provided with the safest possible transit systems and equipment **or safely-constructed and well-equipped infrastructure to get them to school**



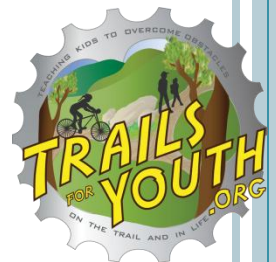
DETAILS OF INCORPORATING BUS RIDERS INTO SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL EVENTS

- Plan your walk/bike to school day – International Walk 2 School Day is well organized and understood
- Pick a location for buses to drop off the children – talk to the bus drivers and school transportation office
- Have the school Principal, Vice Principal, favorite teacher, gym teacher meet the bus, kids get excited about seeing them (it eases the transition or concern of getting to school in a different way)
- Have children join those already walking – get all families involved, kids love seeing friends
- Sounds Simple!



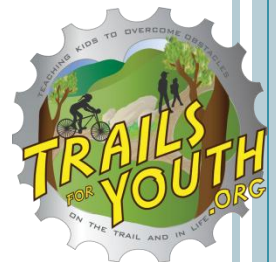
THE NITTY-GRITTY OF INCORPORATING BUS RIDERS INTO SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL EVENTS

- Allow plenty of time for planning, get school buy-in as possible.
- Submit a plan with details (drop off spot, time, walking route, bus turn around, etc.)
- Announce at teacher meetings, ask for those willing to support and be out there early to walk



NITTY-GRITTY CONT'D

- Be willing to compromise – work with bus drivers and transportation office
- Have a message as to why you are including the buses
- Be prepared to think creatively, i.e. bagged breakfast



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO INCORPORATE BUS RIDERS INTO SRTS PROGRAM

○ Lunch time /recess walking campaigns

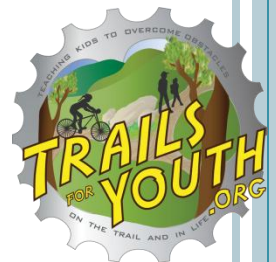
- Fitness Finders
- Teacher buy-in
- Supervised activity / burns energy

○ After school clubs

- Incorporate pedestrian safety education

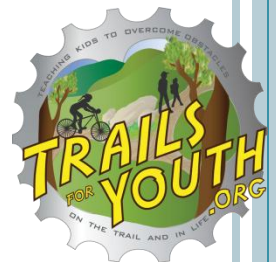
○ Walking Home School Bus

- Great way for teachers to get exercise
- Teachers / Parents connect with students in healthy fun atmosphere
- Students have opportunity to chat with other students and release stressors of the school day
- Very popular with students and has generated tremendous interest with other students, thereby increasing awareness



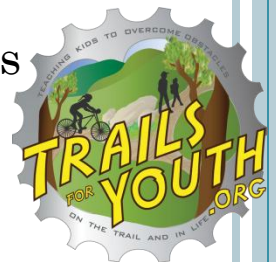
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR BUS RIDERS CONT'D

- Punch Card Count System
 - Required number of walks per month
 - Tokens to collect
 - Parents and students sign a pledge to complete and report honestly on their walking efforts – done to/from school, within the community or at recess
- Education curriculum / programs
- Identify largest population of bussed students and conduct bicycle rodeo close to that area.
 - Works well for dense population areas, apartment complex etc.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL

- Simple inclusion is to educate the entire student population
- Quick Education Examples:
 - Triple A – Otto the Auto, in-school assembly / production, high school drama club could perform
 - Video presentations at classroom morning meetings, PTA meetings, make copies available to all teachers if they need a time filler
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Educational Videos
 - TrailsforYouth.Org, 5 minute video geared towards parents and kids, info told by kids with Spanish subtitles



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OR INFORMATION

- www.TrailsforYouth.Org
- www.NHTSA.gov
- www.walktoschool.org
- www.yellowbuses.org
- www.naptonline.org
- www.aaafoundation.org

