

Walking School Bus

CASE STUDY

Fall River

EDUCATION **ENCOURAGEMENT** ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION ENGINEERING EQUITY | **URBAN** RURAL SUBURBAN

Background

MassDOT's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program helps School Partners establish Walking School Buses and provides support to sustain these fun, active commutes for students. We create maps to plan the best routes based on student origin/destination and offer tips on structure, safety, staffing, and supervision. Check out our [Walking School Bus and Bike Train Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions to set up a Walking School Bus!

Overview

Mary Fonseca Elementary School is located in an urban setting, where about 73% of students live within a one-mile walking radius. A partner school since 2011, Fonseca Elementary launched its staff-led Walking School Bus (WSB) in 2016. The WSB was aided by a School Wellness Coordinator from the community and followed in the footsteps of other schools in the district, including the Letourneau and Doran Elementary Schools.

The Story

- ✓ Every day, staff members clad in safety vests pick up students along a designated walking route
- ✓ The COVID-19 pandemic and the switch to remote learning led to a pause in the WSB, but they re-launched in the spring of 2022
- ✓ The staff-led nature of this WSB and its district's administrative support ensures this program's sustainability
- ✓ As students and their families age out of elementary school, incoming students can experience the benefits of safe, active transportation with the help of the dedicated staff



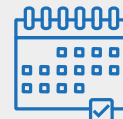
Impacts



Students and staff have the opportunity to socialize with their peers



Students gain personal independence and a chance to be physically active before the start of the school day



A safe, supervised commute reduces absenteeism for students whose families cannot walk with them to school