

# BIKE BUS PARTNERSHIPS: SCHOOLS



## Engaging Teachers and School Administrators

Teachers and school administrators each play important roles in running safe, organized, and successful Bike Buses, as well as spreading excitement to kids and community members alike. Here are some of the roles that teachers and administrators can take in the operation of a Bike Bus, along with suggestions on how to get school staff involved and bought into your Bike Bus initiative.

### TEACHERS CAN:

- Become a Champion for the Initiative
- Volunteer to organize or ride along
- Get kids excited about the Bike Bus
- Use the Bike Bus as a teaching tool
- Facilitate afternoon Bike Bus (if established)

### ADMINISTRATORS CAN:

- Publicize the Bike Bus to school parents
- Communicate with the school district, and city officials
- Manage parent concerns or questions
- Focus on inclusion of students needing adaptive equipment

Teacher and administrator buy-in can help in running a safe and fun Bike Bus and can help it continue to operate and grow as children (and their parents) move on to different schools.

## TIPS FOR BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIP

**Early Engagement:** Keeping school staff and administration in-the-know about Bike Bus plans from the onset is the easiest way to ensure the rides go smoothly and are able to continue. This allows for addressing any concerns from administrators worried about school liability or general student safety, as well as getting supportive teachers and administrators on board and contributing. Identification of these teacher/administrator champions can go a long way to accomplishing the Bike Bus's goals. A good target to set for this outreach would be at least a month prior to the first full launch of the Bike Bus (i.e. during summer break for a targeted launch in the fall).

**Adapt to the Level of Support and Involvement:** Because of concerns surrounding liability or simply because of their already busy schedules, teachers and school administrators may not be able to be actively involved in running the Bike Bus. Despite this, communities at schools around New York have been able to implement safe, fun, and growing Bike Bus programs. Organizers have noted that administrators sometimes warm up to the idea once seeing its feasibility and the positive effect biking together has on students. On the flip side, administrators' support in publicizing Bike Bus activities and advocating for needs is a great asset to have, and teacher support is equally helpful.

**Keep Communication Open:** School staff and administration are important stakeholders to keep in the loop and can provide valuable feedback on how the Bike Bus is impacting their side of the commute.



### CONTACT US!

We're here to help! Please connect with us if you're interested in setting up a program or for more information.



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