



Walking School Bus



Walking School Bus Program

Overview



Walking School Bus Program

- Housed at environmental non-profit Bridging The Gap
- 2008: Two-year SRTS non-infrastructure grant through KDOT
- Requirement: Eight schools
- Separate contracts with Tonganoxie, Louisburg and Unified Government of Wyandotte County



Accomplishments 2008 to 2010

Events:

- Four bike safety clinics equipped 100 children with new bike helmets and taught them important bike safety skills
- Spring Walk to School Day event for Banneker Elementary with 74 participants



Accomplishments 2008 to 2010

Other Highlights:

- Trained 20 parents and 10 teachers to be Bus “Drivers”
- Worked with a total of 17 schools in five Kansas counties
- 45 volunteers committing 209 hours
- Three workshops that trained 68 attendants on how to establish Walking School Bus



Specific School Examples



Belinder Elementary
"Home of the Indian Braves"



Roesland Elementary
"Home of the Panthers"

East Antioch Elementary
"Home of the Panthers"



Tomahawk Elementary

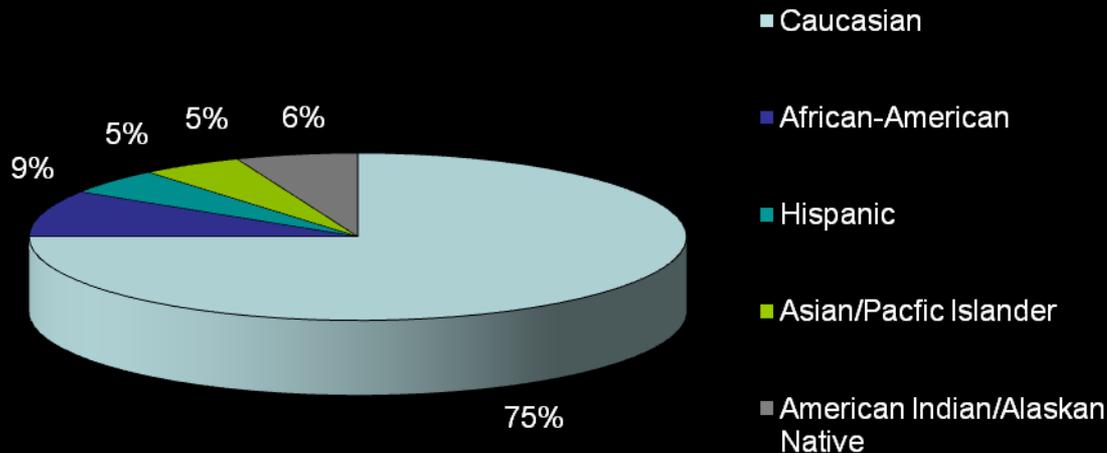
HOME OF THE TRAILBLAZERS



Arbor Creek
home of the Otters



Sunflower Elementary in Lawrence, Kansas



- 476 students
- 23 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch

Opportunities and Challenges

- Very involved parent volunteer
 - Existing trails and sidewalks
 - Bus radius extended to 2.5 miles
 - Very small, congested car loop
- Dangerous intersections
 - School disconnected from neighborhoods served
 - Marathon Club
 - Lack of volunteers
 - Concerns about liability

Sunflower Elementary: 476 students; majority Caucasian; 23 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

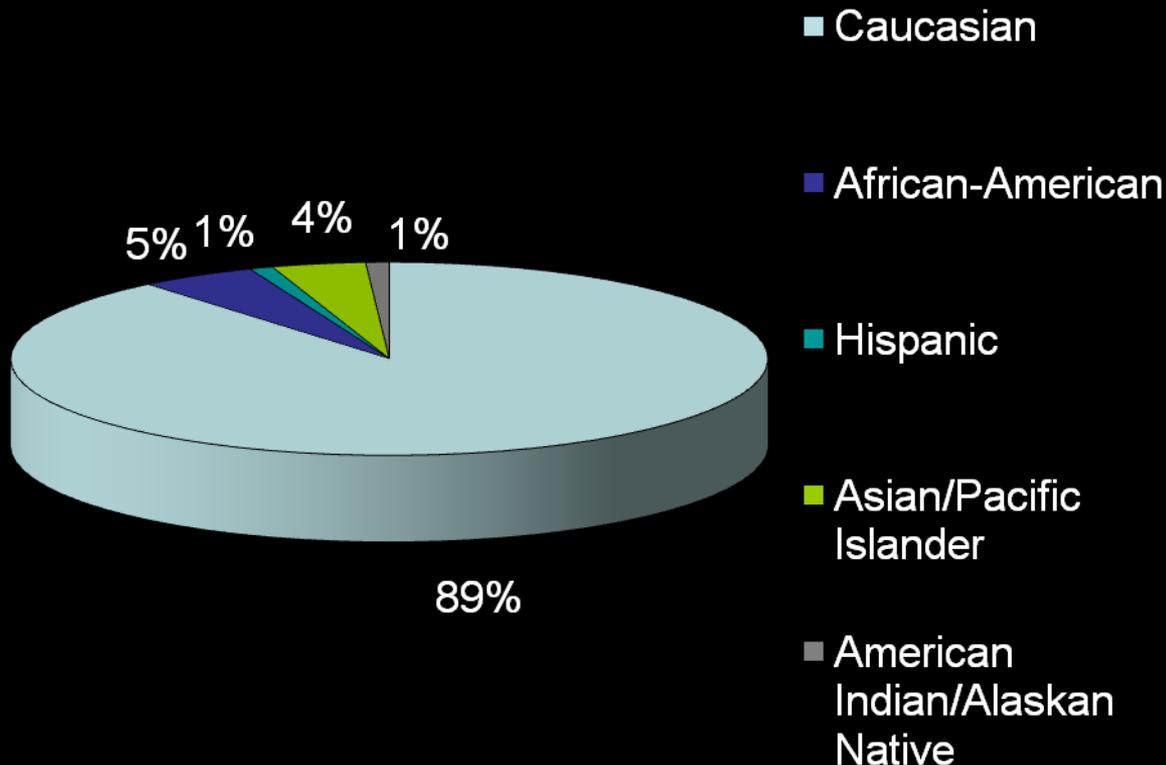
- PTA created Walking School Bus Committee
- Committee received FedEx Walk This Way grant
- Established partnerships with Douglas County SafeKids, housed at Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Structure: no organized groups, punch cards, blog for communication

Sunflower Elementary: 476 students; majority Caucasian; 23 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Walking School Bus

Clear Creek Elementary in Shawnee, Kansas



- 571 students
- 6 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Opportunities and Challenges

- PTA approached us
 - Helpful PTA president
 - Existing infrastructure
 - Several subdivisions around school
- Finding volunteer coordinator
 - Little promotion of program at school except to PTA board

Clear Creek: 571 students; majority Caucasian; 6 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



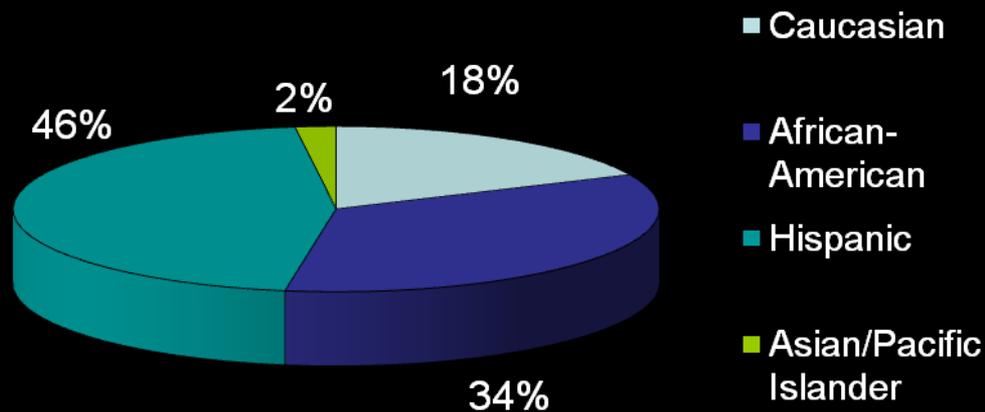
Program Implementation

- Sign-up forms sent home with every student
- Standard Walking School Bus program
- Spring 2010: Nine volunteers, 18 student walkers and Walking School Bus every day of the week, four neighborhoods
- Fall 2010: Three volunteers, 22 student walkers, Walking School Bus three days a week, two neighborhoods

Clear Creek: 571 students; majority Caucasian; 6 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Frank Rushton Elementary in Kansas City, Kansas



- 418 students
- 81 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Opportunities and Challenges

- Rosedale Healthy Kids Initiative; AmeriCorps Intern
- Centrally located school
- A lot of kids walk already
- 3rd grade teacher implemented Play60 and started weekly Walking Club

- Lack of safe infrastructure
- Language
- No PTA
- Finding volunteers
- Getting people to show up

Frank Rushton: 418 students; majority Hispanic and African-American; 81 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



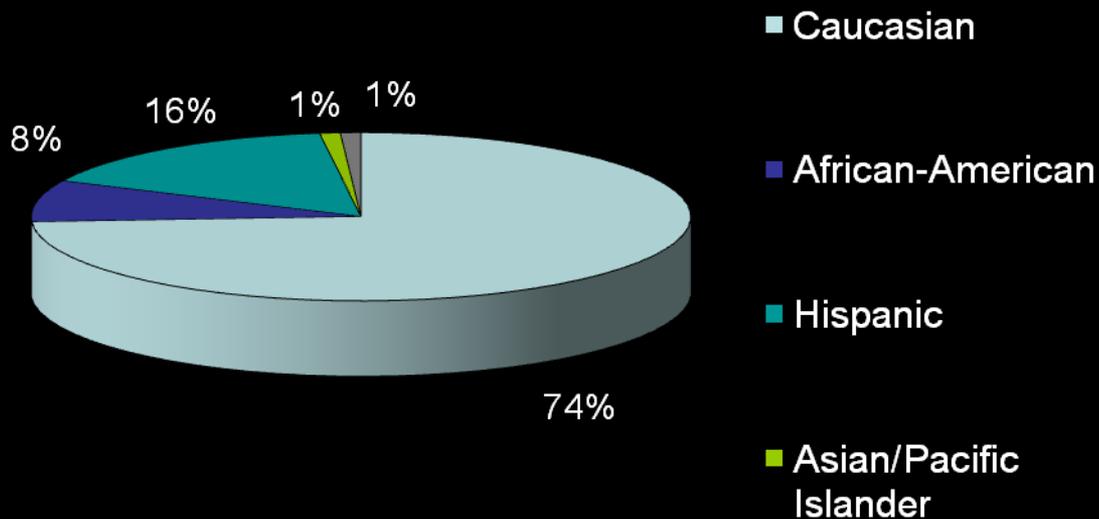
Program Implementation

- Tried central meeting location approach in Spring
- Teacher approach in Fall
- International Walk to School Day on October 6 kick-off
- About 100 participants
- Weekly Walking School Buses lead by teachers

Frank Rushton: 418 students; majority Hispanic and African-American; 81 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Roesland Elementary in Roeland Park, Kansas



- 306 students
- 41 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Opportunities and Challenges

- Had done International Walk to School Day in 2008
- Found volunteer coordinator
- Very supportive principal
- Centrally located school

- No relationship building after International Walk to School Day
- Some students have to cross very busy, four-lane street

Roesland: 306 students; majority Caucasian; 41 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

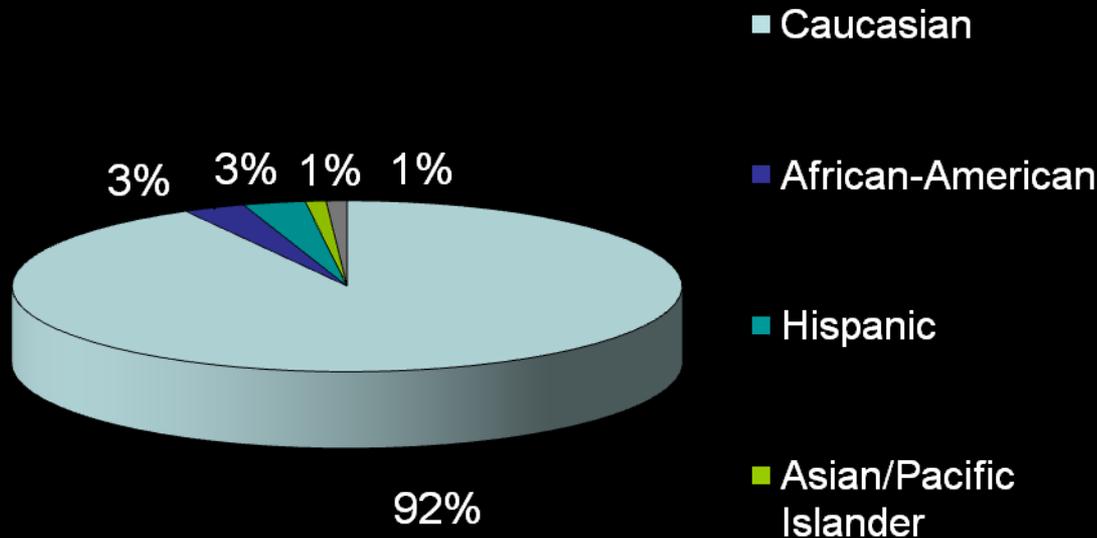
- Targeted towards children having to cross busy, four-lane street
- Library as central meeting location
- Three volunteers, four students, walk every Friday morning
- International Walk to School Day event in 2010

Roesland: 306 students; majority Caucasian; 41 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Walking School Bus

Belinder Elementary in Prairie Village, Kansas



- 399 students
- 10 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Opportunities and Challenges

- Very involved PE teacher
 - Already had Walking Wednesdays
 - Have done International Walk to School Day events for several years
- Hard to get meeting setup to start planning process
 - Never heard back from parents who expressed interest during Health Fair

Belinder: 339 students; majority Caucasian; 10 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

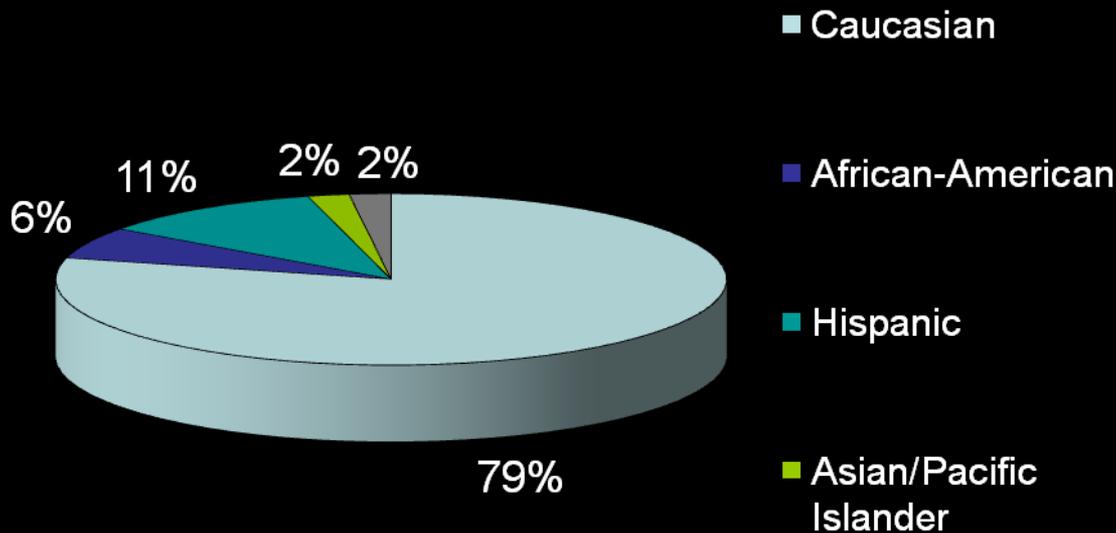
- Received grant from Shawnee Mission Education Fund to develop wellness program for school
- Implemented Walking Wednesdays with about 100 regular participants
- “Walk the World” challenge
- This year want to implement teacher approach

Belinder: 339 students; majority Caucasian; 10 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Walking School Bus

East Antioch Elementary in Overland Park, Kansas



- 381 students
- 34 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Opportunities and Challenges

- PTA approached us
 - Had presence at Fun Run and Ice Cream Social
 - Able to find one volunteer
- No one signed up children to walk yet
 - Principal not very supportive
 - PTA too busy to implement program this semester

East Antioch: 381 students; majority Caucasian; 34% eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

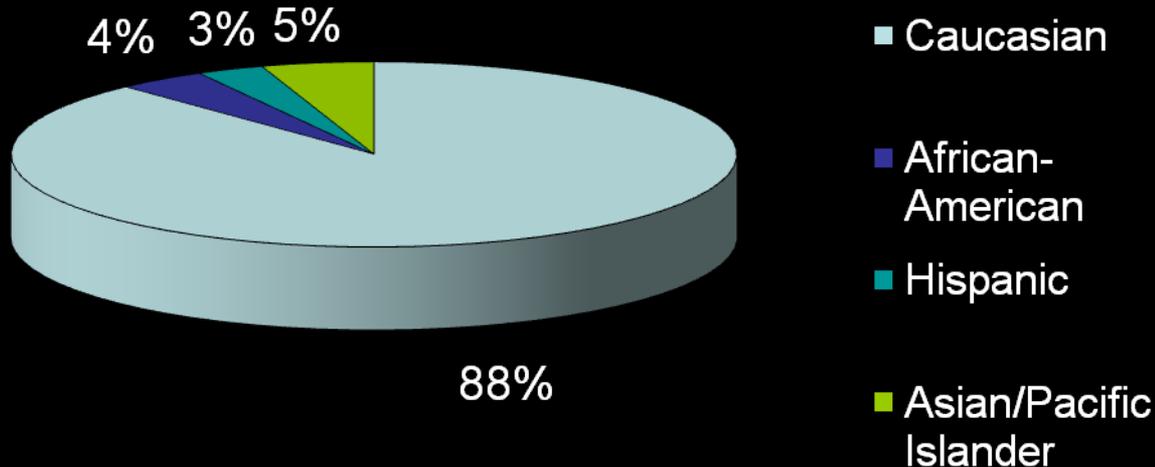
- Will talk to PTA at November meeting
- Figure out best structure for school
- Assume it will be standard Walking School Bus
- Promotion and planning over winter
- Implementation in Spring with kick-off event

East Antioch: 381 students; majority Caucasian; 34% eligible for reduced/free lunch



Walking School Bus

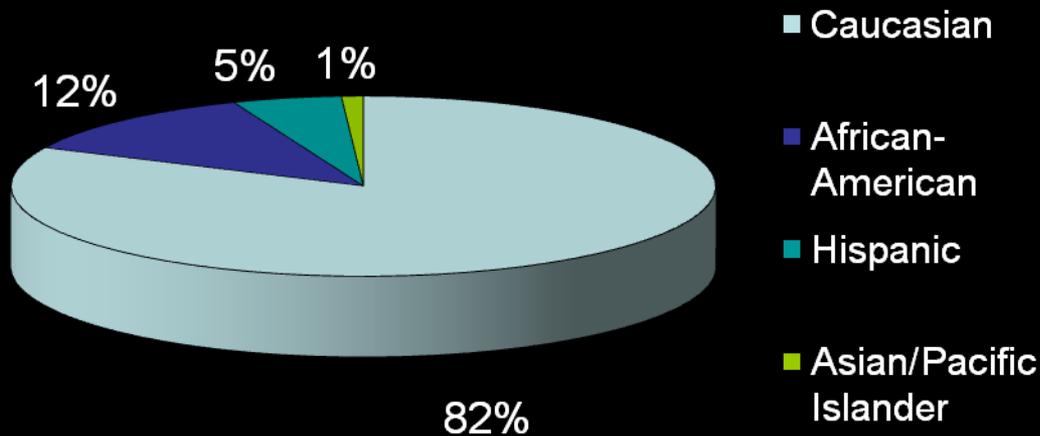
Arbor Creek Elementary in Olathe, Kansas



- 669 students
- 2 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch



Tomahawk Elementary in Olathe, Kansas



- 404 students
- 26 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch

Opportunities and Challenges

- Existing infrastructure
- Centrally located with several subdivisions surrounding school
- PTA support
- At Arbor Creek one parent already walking group of kids

- School district
- Some kids have to cross major road
- Little parent interest
- Parents who took charge of program not reachable
- Principals keep changing their minds

Arbor Creek: 339 students; majority Caucasian; 2 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch

Tomahawk: 404 students; majority Caucasian; 26 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

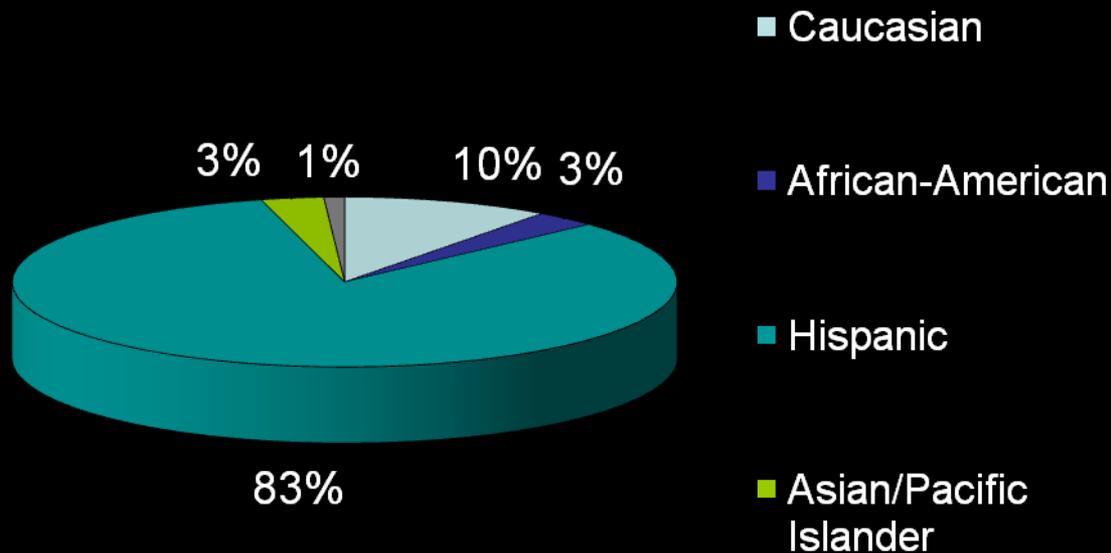
- Not able to get anything off the ground this fall
- Promotion and planning over winter
- Implementation in Spring with kick-off event
- Will most like be standard structure or central meeting location program

Arbor Creek: 339 students; majority Caucasian; 2 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch

Tomahawk: 404 students; majority Caucasian; 26 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



M.E. Pearson Elementary in Kansas City, Kansas



- 598 students
- 93 percent eligible for reduced or free lunch

Opportunities and Challenges

- Principals want to create community school
- Supportive counselor
- Two KU practicum students to help with program
- Received SRTS money to build sidewalks

- Insufficient infrastructure
- Language
- Crime
- No PTA
- Little parent support

M.E. Pearson: 598 students; majority Hispanic; 93 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Program Implementation

- International Walk to School Day event in 2009
- By end of contract nothing permanent established
- Received mini-grant from Latino Health For All Coalition to establish Walking Club
- International Walk to School Day on October 6 was kick-off
- 181 participants

M.E. Pearson: 598 students; majority Hispanic; 93 percent eligible for reduced/free lunch



Walking School Bus

Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned

- Volunteers
- Changing habits
- Building relationships
- Face-to-face communication
- No perfect timing
- Partnerships essential
- Start small and expand
- It takes time





Walking School Bus

Thank you!

For more information, contact
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Walking School Bus
is a program of Bridging The Gap
www.bridgingthegap.org