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Have you ever seen a Walking School Bus? The wheels on this new program hit the ground May 9 at dismissal time at Norwood Elementary School.

The City's Be Healthy Initiative, Burleson Police Department, Citizens On Patrol, and students, parents and staff at the school on Evelyn Lane started the local pilot that is patterned after the National Center For Safe Routes to School program. The goal is to combat childhood obesity and promote a safe environment by encouraging families to take turns walking the neighborhood children home from school.

During the first weeks of the program, a police officer, Citizens On Patrol members, and Norwood staff are walking with the students and parents. Students riding bicycles are also encouraged to participate, but they must stay with the Walking School Bus group.

The Walking School Bus not only adds more security for children who are walking, but it also increases a child's physical activity; replaces car trips to school and, in turn, improves the air quality and environment; reduces traffic congestion; and gives community leaders, parents and children an opportunity to share quality time while working on a healthy lifestyle.

If you would like to start a program at your neighborhood school, call Kellye Cunningham, assistant to the city manager, at 817-426-9682 or email [kcunningham@burlesontrx.com](mailto:kcunningham@burlesontrx.com).