

Student Transportation Policy:

School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education provides transportation assistance for students funded by the Ministry of Education.

Who qualifies?

- Students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12 at their home school.
- Students living more than 4 km (2.5 miles) from their home school.
- * *Kindergarten students must be accompanied both to and from the bus stop by a responsible adult, to one drop off location only.*

Bus Transportation

- Bus routes will be established in accordance with the *School Act and regulations* where the Board determines that this is the most reasonable and practical approach. In making its decision, the Board will consider the costs, distances, road conditions and number of students involved.
- Vehicles used to transport students must comply with the requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, the *Motor Carrier Act* and the *School Act*.

Transportation Assistance Allowance:

Parents may apply for Transportation Assistance Allowance if their children are eligible for transportation services, where the Board has determined that establishing bus service is neither practical or economical. Parents of students living more than 3.2 km from the nearest existing bus route may also apply for the allowance.

Special Transportation Needs:

- Custom transportation service, including home to school service in specially-equipped vehicles, may be provided for students with special needs.
- The specific service provided shall be determined by the degree of the student's disability.
- Applications for custom transportation services are generated from the school site and approved by the Transportation Department.
- Due to the specialized and individualized nature of the transportation service generally required, it normally takes three (3) school days for transportation arrangement to be completed.
- Transportation is not provided for students registered in alternate programs such as French Immersion, Montessori, or Traditional schools.

Conveyance of Non-Entitled (Courtesy) Students:

- Non-registered students MUST provide a signed note from their parent/guardian to the school office for permission to ride on a school bus.
- Students wanting to disembark at a stop other than their designated stop MUST provide a signed note from their parent/guardian to the school office.

Safety on the Bus:

School buses are an extension of the school and students remain under the jurisdiction of the school district. Misbehaviour by a student, on a school bus, shall be reported in writing by the bus driver to the student's principal and the District Principal, Transportation.

If, in the opinion of the bus driver, a student's behavior is jeopardizing the safety of other students riding on a bus, the driver may proceed to the nearest school for the support of school district personnel.

Students shall refrain from practices that endanger themselves or others and shall show respect for the rights and property of others.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Transportation Department of School District No. 57 (Prince George) is committed to school transportation that respects three core values:

SAFETY - RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY

STUDENTS MUST:

- Follow the driver's directions the **FIRST** time they are given.
- Keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- Stay in their seat unless directed to do otherwise.
- Talk quietly, using only appropriate language.
- Be at the stop 5 minutes before the scheduled departure time.
- Not eat or drink on the bus.
- Not bully or intimidate others.
- NOT SMOKE, take drugs or alcohol on the bus or at the bus stop or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

A student whose behavior contravenes these values or whose actions distract the driver; cause or have the potential to cause harm or discomfort to self or others, is subject to disciplinary action, which includes the following:

- Verbal warning from the bus driver (initially in routine situations).
- Possible seat assignment.
- Issue of a School Bus Conduct Notice: Written warning; Two school day suspension of bus privileges; Five school day suspension of bus privileges.

NOTE: All warnings & suspensions must be signed and returned to the driver at the end of the suspension period.

- Service suspended for an undetermined length of time (issued for repeated offences or for striking another person, spraying substances, fighting, vandalism, spitting, throwing objects out bus windows, lighting matches or other flammable objects, possession/use of laser pointer, unauthorized use of emergency equipment, unauthorized exit through rear emergency door, and other serious incidents on the bus or at the bus stop). When a student receives this type of suspension, parents should arrange an interview with transportation staff. The length of the suspension period will be determined during the interview. Please phone 250-561-6802 to arrange an appointment.

STUDENTS SUSPENDED FROM SCHOOL BUS SERVICES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THEIR REGULAR CLASSES.

The School District reserves the right to reassign students to alternative routes.

WE CARRY PRECIOUS CARGO ON THE SCHOOL BUS, EVERY DISCIPLINE PROBLEM IS A ROAD HAZARD



What Can I Take With Me?

For safety purposes, the Canadian Standards and Motor Vehicle Act do not permit equipment such as skis, poles, toboggans, sleds, skateboards, scooters, hockey sticks, baseball bats, long umbrellas, etc., on a regular school bus. Only musical instruments that fit safely on a student's lap or in their backpack may be transported by bus. Animals are never allowed on the bus. Roller blades cannot be worn on the bus.

Skates must have skate guards or be carried in a gear bag. Students shall ensure that they have nothing in their possession that may cause injury to others. Items other than school books shall be no larger than can be safely placed on the students' lap and must not project into an aisle.

Winter Weather

Student safety is the primary concern determining actions taken as a result of cold or inclement winter weather.

- Schools shall not be closed due to cold or inclement weather.
- School bus service shall be cancelled for the day on a route considered to be too dangerous due to snow or ice conditions.
- In case of school bus delay or cancellation announcements shall be made via the local radio stations on the affected day.
- The decision to keep a student at home for the day due to winter weather conditions shall be made by the parent/guardian.
- Students shall not be expected to wait for a school bus more than fifteen (15) minutes past the scheduled pick-up time. If the bus has not arrived by that time, students should return to their homes or another prearranged place of shelter.
- It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for winter conditions.

Bus Schedules

Bus schedules established annually are subject to change if circumstances require. All times are approximate and subject to adjustments as required.

Parents should ensure that children know when and where to get on and off the bus, the route it will take and the arrangements for their safe return from the bus stop to their home.

Who is the bus driver?

Your school bus driver is a trained professional; the authority on the bus.

Driving a school bus today calls for physical, mental and emotional capabilities of the very highest order.

A school bus driver must be a diplomat, a public relations person, a nursemaid and a disciplinarian. The bus driver must be able to keep both eyes on the road, watch for traffic situations with considerably more care than the average motorist and, at the same time, control up to 72 squirming, energetic youngsters. An enormous responsibility!

Ministry of Education guidelines state that the main thrust of the transportation system should be to assist the teacher by having the students arrive at school in a state of mind that is as receptive to the learning process as possible.

We need to work together, as bus driver, parents, students and transportation personnel, to guarantee safe, efficient transportation of students.

School Busing—Notes to Parents

- Students should be at their bus stop 5 minutes ahead of the scheduled departure time. Buses DO NOT wait for tardy students. Drivers may notify parents with a "School bus Conduct Notice" if a student has arrived late for the bus on more than one occasion.
- Under no circumstances should children run to catch the bus.
- Provide the necessary protection for your children when going to and from the bus stop.
- Make certain that your children are properly dressed, in case of emergencies during cold or wet weather.
- Accept responsibility for the proper conduct of your children before boarding a bus, during the daily trips and upon discharge. Parents will be responsible for any damage to a bus by their children.
- Encourage children to obey all traffic rules and school bus regulations.
- Students are to use only their assigned bus and regular bus stop. This stop will be the closest stop to the student's registered home address. Should a student need to ride a different bus for a special reason, the parent must provide the school principal with a dated, signed note explaining the reasons for the request.
- Children should know their bus route number.
- Children are expected to proceed directly from the bus to their destination.
- Notify Diversified Transportation directly at 250-563-5431 if your child requires the use of crutches.



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57 (PRINCE GEORGE)



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