



**YOUR
JOURNEY
TO SAFETY**

WELCOME TO My 1st Ride

- My 1st Ride was developed to encourage safety on and around the school bus
- This program can only be effective with a Team Effort
- Team Members are: Parents/Caregivers, School Boards, Bus Companies, Students



This program has been brought to you by the following school divisions:



**Calgary Board
of Education**



**CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

This program has been brought to you by the following school bus companies:



WATCH FOR THE SECRET SCHOOL BUS!



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FAST FACTS

- On an average school day in Alberta, over 300,000 students are transported by school buses
- The color of yellow used on school buses is **ACTUALLY** called 'National School Bus Glossy Yellow'



OUR EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- Register your child for bus transportation (not the same as registration for school)
- Ensure child carry basic information in their backpack like name, school and contact information
- Attend My 1st Ride program
- Respect rules of bus and the bus driver
- Do not discuss issues or concerns with driver – contact the bus company or school board staff

OUR EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- Parents are not allowed to board the school bus
- Parents **MUST** know bus route letter or number, stop location and name of school their child attends. This information is available on school district and school websites
- Driver's primary concern is the safe transportation of all children. Please support the driver in student management issues
- Parents will not park in the bus zone at a stop or at school, and will follow all traffic safety laws and parking bylaws

PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Your child's safety to and from and at the stop location is a parental responsibility. Ensure your child has dressed appropriately for the weather
 - If you choose to let your child walk alone, this is a parental decision and the responsibility is yours
- Practice walking to and from the stop location
- Follow all traffic safety rules and only cross streets at intersections, when safe to do so
- Only use the designated stop location provided to you
- Be at the stop 5 minutes before the listed departure time
- Get to know your neighborhood and have an emergency back-up plan in place
- If you plan on meeting your child at the stop location, teach them what to do if you are NOT there or they miss their stop

PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

○ Please review the transportation expectations available on both CCSD and CBE websites at:

<https://www.cssd.ab.ca/my-first-ride>

<https://cbe.ab.ca/transportation>

PARENT ROUTE INQUIRES

- Drivers are not permitted to make route changes
- Parents must complete and submit a bus stop change request following your school board's change request process



PARENT RESPONSIBILITY: KINDERGARTEN

- Kindergarten students must be aware they need to stay on the bus unless a responsible person that the student recognizes is at the door of the bus to meet them
- Kindergarten students must tell the driver if a parent or responsible caregiver is not at the bus doors

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing supervision for school bus loading and unloading and directing students onto the right bus
- Identifying kindergarten students to driver
- Directing students to sit in the bus seating plan

SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Creating and changing bus routes
- Selecting safe stop locations
- Ensuring communication between bus company, school and parents



**Calgary Board
of Education**



**CALGARY CATHOLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

BUS COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES

To provide:

- Safe and reliable transportation
- Well-trained staff
- Maintain late service information on applicable communication platforms
 - Southland Transportation: My School Bus Monitor website (myschoolbusmonitor.ca) and MyBusStop App (<https://www.mybusstop.ca>)
 - First Student: FirstView App (<https://web.firstviewapp.com>) or Bus Status website (<https://firststudentcalgary.busstatus.ca>)

BUS DRIVERS DO NOT

- Have student contact information
- Use cell phones while working
- Provide their personal phone numbers
- Make unauthorized stops
- Allow parents or other unauthorized persons to board the bus
- Administer medication



THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW!



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LATE BUS | WHAT TO DO

- Students should not be left at the stop alone
- Have a plan if you cannot pick up your child and share it with your family or other caregivers
- If there is no obvious reason for delay and you have waited 15 minutes or more, contact the bus company
- Parents continue to be responsible until their child boards the bus

CAUSES FOR BUS DELAYS

- Weather and road conditions
- Road construction/repairs
- Traffic delays
- Dual routing delays
- Driver absenteeism
- Mechanical problems
- Bus driver shortage



BUS DELAYS

Please check the website or app for your provider:

www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca

or MyBusStopApp

<https://firststudentcalgary.busstatus.ca>

or FirstView App

for information on bus delays.

Please contact the school bus company for any other information if you are not able to use the websites listed above.



MISSING CAREGIVER

Students must tell driver there is no one there to meet them:

- Parents, reinforce with your child to stay on the bus
- Remember: If you choose to let your child walk to and from home unsupervised, that is your decision and responsibility is yours
- Child should have contact phone numbers and address in their backpack or jacket
- Bus company will attempt to contact parent or guardian while driver completes route



MISSING STUDENT

If the bus arrives at the stop and the caregiver informs driver that a student is missing:

- Driver contacts Dispatch
- Dispatch calls school and radio's out to other drivers from the same school
- Often a spouse/partner already picked student up at school

The student may have boarded the wrong bus or is still at school:

- NOT all schools take attendance. Check with your school to determine the current protocol.
- If the student is not located, parents are encouraged to contact the police

MISSING ITEMS

- Bus companies are not responsible for items left on the bus
- Check with the driver on the following trip to see if your item was found
- Lost and found items are normally returned to the school, not to the bus company

NON-TRANSPORTABLE ITEMS

For student safety and allergy reasons, some items are not transported according to Alberta Transportation:

- Animals (exceptions for Registered Service Animals)
- Unsecured items
- Large school projects, band instruments, skateboards, hockey sticks, etc.
- For a complete list of restricted items on all school buses refer to the school board transportation website.



SUMMARY

We're all part of the same team:

- Parents/responsible person
- Schools
- School boards
- Bus companies
- Students

The team's main goal is Student Safety



Let's work together to make this our **safest** year ever!



Q & A

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have!

