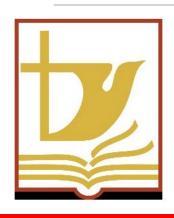


YOUR JOURNEY TO SAFETY







FAST FACTS:

- On an average school day in Alberta, over 245,000 students are transported by school buses
- Daily routes to and from school total 363,000 kilometers that's 9 times around the Earth!



WELCOME TO "My 1st Ride"

- o"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/Responsible Caregiver, Schools, School Boards, Bus Companies, Students



OUR EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

- OAttend "My 1st Ride" program
- Respect rules of bus and driver
- Do not discuss issues or concerns with driver. Instead, contact or phone bus company or school board staff.
- oParents are not allowed to board school bus
- Parents MUST know bus route letter or number, stop location and name of school their child attends
- ODriver's primary concern is the safe transportation of all children. Please support the driver in student management issues.

PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Your child's safety to and from the stop location is a parental responsibility
- Practice walking the route to and from stop location
- Utilize a consistent stop location
- Get to know your neighborhood and have an emergency plan in place
- oSchool boards will support Southland's policy that K-1 are to be brought and met at the bus stop by an adult. If you choose to let your child walk alone to and from the stop, that is a decision you have made and the responsibility is yours. And would need to be followed up with a written note.
- olf you plan on meeting your child at the stop location, teach them what to do if you are NOT there

PARENT ROUTE INQUIRES:

- Drivers are not permitted to make route changes
- oParents can email the transportation co-ordinator at cheryl.shimbashi@lethsd.ab.ca



SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Providing supervision for school bus loading and unloading and directing students onto the right bus
- Identifying kindergarten students to driver
- Directing kindergarten students to sit in first few rows of bus

SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensuring busing eligibility
- Ensuring communication between bus company, school, and parents

BUS COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

To provide:

- Safe and reliable transportation
- Well-trained staff
- Maintain late service information on My School Bus Monitor website (myschoolbusmonitor.ca)
- Support for Student Safety Programs (i.e. safety visits, evacuation drills)

BUS DRIVERS DO NOT:

- Have a student list with any contact information
- Use cell phones while working
- Make unauthorized stops
- Allow parents or other unauthorized persons to board the bus



PARENT RESPONSIBILITY: UNLOADING

- •Kindergarten students must be aware of the necessity to stay on bus unless a responsible person that student recognizes is at stop to meet them
- Kindergarten students must tell the driver if a parent or responsible caregiver is not at the stop
- Remind your child to stay on the bus
- oRemember: If you choose to let your child walk alone to and from stop, that is a decision you have made and the responsibility is yours

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW!



LATE BUS: WHAT TO DO?

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

CAUSES FOR BUS DELAY:

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

Please check the website

www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca for information on bus delays.

Please contact the School Bus company for any other information if you are not able use the website listed above.



MISSING CAREGIVER: Scenario #1

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
- All buses equipped with two-way radios



MISSING CAREGIVER: Scenario #2

Bus arrives at stop and child tells driver their caregiver is not there:

- 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 CAREGIVER: Scenario #3

- In extreme situations, where carrier is unable to contact school or parent, student may be turned over to care of Child and Family Services
- Please note: Repeat occurrences could result in loss of busing privileges



MISSING STUDENT: Scenario #1

Bus arrives at stop and caregiver informs driver that student is missing:

- Driver contacts Dispatch
- Dispatch calls school at this point, between school and bus company, student is located
- Often a spouse/partner already picked student up at school

MISSING STUDENT: Scenario #2

Student may have boarded wrong bus or is still at school:

- NOT all schools take attendance. Check with your school to determine current protocol.
- After all possibilities have been exhausted by responsible person, school and bus company, parents should phone police

MISSING ITEMS:

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

NON-TRANSPORTABLE ITEMS:

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

- OAnimals
- Unsecured items
- •Ex. 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 office or 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!