



# YOUR JOURNEY TO SAFETY



# FAST FACTS:

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- 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ride”

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- “My 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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- Attend “My 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- Parents are not allowed to board school bus
- Parents MUST know bus route letter or number, stop location and name of school their child attends
- Driver’s primary concern is the safe transportation of all children. Please support the driver in student management issues.

# PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

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- 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
- School 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.
- If you plan on meeting your child at the stop location, teach them what to do if you are NOT there

# PARENT ROUTE INQUIRES:

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- Drivers are not permitted to make route changes
- Parents can email the transportation co-ordinator at [cheryl.shimbashi@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.shimbashi@lethsd.ab.ca)



# SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

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- 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

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



# BUS COMPANY RESPONSIBILITIES:

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To provide:

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

# BUS DRIVERS DO NOT:

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- 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

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- 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
- Remember: 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

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THINGS  
YOU NEED  
TO KNOW!



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# LATE BUS: WHAT TO DO?

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- 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
- If 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:

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

Please check the website  
[www.myschoolbusmonitor.ca](http://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

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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

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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

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- 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

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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

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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:

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- 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:

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

- Animals
- 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:

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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!

