

Parents/Guardians

Are responsible for the safety of their children before they are picked up, and after they are dropped off by the school bus. Parents should ensure that their children:

- know how to get to and from the bus stop safely
- have a place to go, or a person to contact, if the bus does not arrive
- have a place to go after school, once they get off the bus
- have a signed note if wanting to travel on a bus other than their regularly scheduled bus.
- are dressed appropriately, especially during inclement weather
- know what the acceptable standard of behavior is on the bus

Students

Are responsible for:

- getting to the bus stop 5 minutes prior to stop time
- obeying the driver's instructions
- behaving properly at all times, including boarding and unloading the bus
- remaining well back from the curb until the bus is stopped and the loading door is opened
- walking 10 paces in front of the bus when crossing the street, follow point and point method to cross
- remaining seated until the bus has come to a complete stop

Reminder; Students are to listen closely when the driver explains and instructs Safe Bus Evacuation Drills.

At schools in Abbotsford School District, every effort is made to ensure that students are provided with safe, efficient and reliable transportation.

Bus drivers do not have the authority to change routes, bus stops or schedules. Transportation concerns should be referred to the school principal.



MORE INFORMATION

Transportation Department

Email: school.bus@abbyschools.ca

Ph: 604-855-5278.

abbyschools.ca/busing



RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS

Information Guide for Parents
and students



Common Problems & Solutions

Bus does not arrive on time	Wait 15 minutes, have a Family Safety Plan, Phone the Transport Office
Student does not arrive home when expected	Phone school; Phone student's friends; Phone the Transport Office.
If your child receives a disciplinary memo/letter	Phone the school Principal
Child has a problem with another child	Phone the school Principal
Bus is being operated in an unsafe manner	Record bus number and phone or email the Transport Office



Severe Weather Conditions

Weather conditions and mechanical breakdowns can occur and cause delays. A route may take 50% longer to complete in adverse weather conditions. If a bus does not arrive in fifteen minutes, you will need to make alternate arrangements for your child. Please equip your student with a family safety plan if the bus has a lengthy delay.

School Closures

During the late fall and winter months, it is necessary to temporarily close a school or schools when weather conditions might endanger the safety of students. The Superintendent of Schools has authority on behalf of the Board, to temporarily close a school or schools. Several factors go into this decision and are highlighted on the school district's website under "Winter Weather Procedures".

If families believe their local conditions are unsafe, they may keep their child at home or arrange for their early dismissal. To alert parents, the school district has various means of communicating a decision to close a school or schools:

- District Website - www.abbyschools.ca
- Social Accounts - @AbbotsfordSD
- SchoolMessenger Email / Phone Calls

Bus Stop Locations

Routes and stops are structured to stay on main roadways in our district. Bus stops are located in a safe place and are designed to accommodate as many students as possible. Students may be requested to walk up to 1.6 km to a bus stop. Stops are located approximately 50 m before or after an intersection to ensure that the bus does not impede traffic.

Student Behavior on School Buses

The school bus is an extension of the classroom. Student behaviour is expected to be consistent with acceptable behaviour in class, as serious safety concerns can result from poor behaviour. According to school bus rules, the driver is responsible for maintaining order on the bus. SAFETY, ORDER and RIGHTS are posted inside each school bus. Students who misbehave on a bus may first receive a verbal warning. If this warning is not responded to appropriately, the principal shall make a report and parents will be notified. A suspension of riding privileges may occur, if:

- A student's inappropriate behaviour continues; and/or
- A flagrant act of misbehaviour occurs, such as vandalism, direct disobedience, foul language, etc.