

An Information Guide for...



PARENTS & STUDENT



Riding the School Bus

Changes to Routes and Schedules

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

Additional Information

For further information on student transportation, please contact your school or the Transportation Department at school.bus@abbyschools.ca 604-855-5278.

Potential Transportation

Problems? Try this;

Problem

Action

Suggested

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 & phone or email the Transport Office
Severe weather conditions	Listen to local radio announcements for bus cancellations twitter, Facebook, webpage, see below

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

About Our Drivers

All of our drivers undergo a rigorous training program to including both classroom and practical Driver Training. Drivers are taught to deal with a variety of student situations and driving scenarios. They are trained to show the same respect to their students as they expect themselves.

Severe Weather Conditions

Our school bus service has an excellent record for promptness and reliability. However, 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, **equip your student with a family safety plan in case the bus has a lengthy delay.**

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

Bus Stop Locations

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 either approximately 50 m prior to or after an intersection to ensure that the bus does not impede traffic at the intersection. School District buses do not travel on unmaintained or no exit streets. Routes and stops are structured to stay on main road-ways in our district. Students are requested to be at their bus stop 5 minutes prior to their departure time.

Student Behavior on School Buses

The school bus is an extension of the classroom. Behavior is expected to be consistent with that which is acceptable in class. Serious safety concerns can result from poor behavior.

The driver is responsible for maintaining order on the bus, according to school bus rules. Every student's SAFETY, ORDER and RIGHTS are posted on the inside of each school bus.

Students who misbehave on a bus may first receive a verbal warning. If this warning is not responded to in an appropriate manner a report shall be made to the principal. The parents will also be notified.

A suspension of riding privileges may occur, if:

- A student's inappropriate behavior continues, and/or
- A flagrant act of misbehavior occurs, such as vandalism, direct disobedience, the use of foul language, etc.

If there is a suspension of riding privileges, the parents and the school will be immediately informed. Students will not be discharged from the bus on route, but may be returned to the school by the driver.

Types of Infractions

- ☺ Refusing to obey the instructions of the driver
- ☺ Extending part of the body out of the window
- ☺ Failing to remain seated while the vehicle is in motion
- ☺ Being disrespectful of others
- ☺ Fighting

- ☺ Smoking
- ☺ Causing willful damage
- ☺ Using obscene language
- ☺ Throwing objects
- ☺ Any conduct that would not be permitted in a classroom

School Closures

During the late fall and winter months, it is necessary on occasion 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. A number of factors go into this decision, including the conditions of; roads near schools, school grounds, school bus routes, and whether facilities are fully operational. If parents/guardians believe their local conditions are unsafe, they may keep their child at home or arrange for his/her early dismissal. To alert parents, the school district has various means of communicating a decision to close a school or schools:

- ☺ **Popular local radio stations**
- ☺ **District website**
<http://www.abbyschools.ca/>
- ☺ **District Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/AbbotsfordSD>
- ☺ **School District Twitter Account**
[#AbbySchools](https://twitter.com/abbotsfordsd)

Or call the Transportation Office, 604-855-5278.

Student Conduct on School Buses

By adhering to the following rules, students will ensure maximum safety for themselves, their bus driver, and other drivers.

Do...

- ☺ Sit in the seat assigned to you during the entire trip unless authorized by the driver to change seats
- ☺ Remain seated at all times -- facing forward with legs and feet clear of the aisle area and with feet on the floor

- ☺ Keep head and arms inside the bus when the windows are open
- ☺ Be absolutely quiet when approaching and while stopped at a railway crossing
- ☺ Provide the driver with your correct name when asked

Do Not...

- ☺ Push or shove enroute to your seat
- ☺ Throw paper or any other projectile
- ☺ Mark, cut and/or deface seats
- ☺ Bring skis and poles on the bus

All Students Must Not...

- ☺ Push, shove, or hit one another
- ☺ Smoke or Vape
- ☺ Light lighters, matches or firecrackers
- ☺ Swear
- ☺ Fight
- ☺ Be excessively loud
- ☺ Refuse to share a seat

Musical Instruments...

School Buses are designed to transport students and their backpacks. Typically, Musical instruments are not permitted on buses, it becomes a **PROJECTILE** and this is very dangerous. We will allow small cased instruments that can be contained between the knees of the student between the seat in front of them, anything larger is prohibited from being transported by school bus.

Bus Evacuation

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

Reminder: Studies show the safest mode of Transportation to school for students is on board a School Bus.