



### A Message from Student Transportation

Every June, a day is set aside to increase awareness of the important role that school bus drivers play in safely transporting our children to and from school. This year, School Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be held on Wednesday, June 18. Schools throughout the District will be planning various activities to recognize our dedicated drivers. We'll also be recognizing our drivers at a special district event that day. All students, parents and school staff are encouraged to thank a bus driver for their diligence in keeping our bus riders safe and delivering them to school on time and ready to learn.

Edmonton Public Schools and its partners are also very excited to host the third annual First Riders event on Tuesday, August 26. This educational event is offered free of charge to all first-time bus riders, as well as Grade 6 students transitioning to Edmonton Transit (ETS). The program provides an opportunity for children and their parents to learn about safe school bus and ETS bus practices and the important role parents can play not only on the bus, but on the trip to and from the bus stop each day.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to sharing more Student Transportation news with you next school year!

Kelly Hehn  
Manager, Student Transportation

### Reminder of Application Deadline for 2008-09

Parents are reminded that for guaranteed yellow bus service for the first day of school, the Student Transportation application deadline was May 30, 2008, so be sure to get your child's application to your school as soon as possible.

### Yellow Bus Pass Improvements

Edmonton Public Schools is the first public school district in Canada to arrange for yellow bus riders to use the public transit system at no additional cost to students. Starting this fall, yellow bus riders will be able to ride ETS buses or the LRT, before 8 p.m. and up to six times per month. They can ride any day of the week, including weekends. Students will have their yellow bus pass punched by an ETS operator and get a transfer pass before getting on the bus or LRT.

### Outstanding Transportation Fees

All students are assessed a transportation fee for service except eligible Kindergarten students. Fees are due and payable as soon as service commences. If you have not paid your fees, please make your payment immediately at your child's school. Unpaid fees may result in the cancellation of yellow bus service.

Please note that if your child is transitioning from elementary to junior high and still requires busing, transportation fees increase.

Contact your current school for more information or to ask about the more economical annual bus pass option.

The new fee schedule for the 2008-09 school year is available from your school or our web site at <http://transportation.epsb.net/>.

### ETS Trip Planner

ETS has a valuable tool that can quickly and easily assist you with details on when, where and how to use ETS to get you where you're going.

Visit [www.takeets.com](http://www.takeets.com) for more information.

## School Buses and Seatbelts

Many parents wonder why school buses don't have seat belts. This is a valid concern, but in fact, studies have found that lap belts in school buses may cause severe head and neck injuries in children during a collision. This issue is currently under review by Transport Canada and provincial and territorial vehicle safety representatives.

The industry is always looking for ways to make school bus travel safer, but as it stands, school bus travel is already one of the safest ways for your child to travel back and forth to school.

*Source: Alberta Transportation*

## Become a Walking Buddy and Win a Prize

Walking Buddies is a program that encourages students to walk to school together. Students can walk with a friend, sibling, younger student or neighbour. Register your team online at [www.shapeab.com](http://www.shapeab.com). Then walk to school ten times together and be eligible for a prize! Have an adult (like a parent, guardian or teacher) who witnessed you walking to school sign your downloaded form. Once the form is complete, send it to SHAPE at Box 69102, RPO Skyview, 13040 - 137 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6V 1G7. SHAPE will send each Walking Buddy a Walking Buddies zipper pull you can wear proudly.

## Show Your Bus Pass

All students, with the exception of those receiving curb service, are required to show a valid bus pass each day, regardless whether it is a yellow or ETS bus. This ensures that the student has a valid pass and is eligible for bus service, and curbs the many forms of abuse and fraud that are possible without this daily audit. The principal may choose to suspend transportation privileges for any student who consistently fails to show a bus pass.

## What is a Designated School?

Every neighbourhood in Edmonton has designated public schools. Although some newer areas of the city have not had any schools built yet, these neighbourhoods still have designated schools which may be in an adjacent or nearby neighbourhood that can accommodate the students. Every neighbourhood in Edmonton has a designated elementary, junior high and high school.

Neighbourhoods that have been provided with yellow bus transportation opportunities to an alternative program will have a designated school for the program. The principal directs students with special education needs to a school that best fits their needs and which becomes their designated school.

### Safety Tip

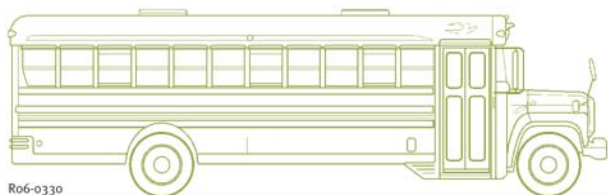
- Ensure that your child is aware of and understands safety on and around the bus.
- Assist severe special education needs students to the bus and immediately take custody of the student upon disembarking the bus. *Note: A bus driver cannot leave the vehicle, nor is permitted to drop off a Kindergarten or special education needs student unless someone is present to receive custody.*

Learn more about bus safety at <http://transportation.epsb.net/>. Choose "Safety" under Quick Links.

## Need More Information?

Visit the Student Transportation web site at <http://transportation.epsb.net> for information about both ETS and yellow bus service within the District. Get comprehensive maps of designated receiving schools, as well as maps of transportation areas for Alternative Program sites. Use the Find a School Tool to find your designated receiving schools.

*Student Transportation supports schools in their instructional focus by ensuring that our students are transported in a safe and timely manner and arrive ready to learn.*



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