



A Message from Student Transportation

School bus drivers play a very important role in safely transporting our children to and from school each day, and every year a day is set aside to increase awareness of the efforts of these special people. This year, School Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be held on **Wednesday, May 20**. Schools throughout the district will be planning various activities to recognize drivers on 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 fifth annual First Riders event on **Tuesday, August 25**. 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 bus practices for school and ETS buses, and the important role parents can play not only on the bus, but on the trip to and from the bus stop each day.

Reducing ride times and bus pass fees is a constant focus for us, and in that regard a service review has been initiated. Stantec Consulting Group is currently examining Edmonton Public Schools' transportation service offerings. The results of this service review will provide the necessary information to further improve on our yellow bus service. Information will be provided on these results in the fall of 2009.

ETS and yellow buses are an environmentally friendly way to travel to and from school. This year's increase of 1,226 student riders for a total of 27,386 riders, goes a long way towards supporting environmental solutions.

The staff in Student Transportation would like to wish all families a great summer that is warm and relaxing. We look forward to sharing more Student Transportation news with you next year.

Kelly Hehn
Manager, Student Transportation

Edmonton Transit... Moving Students into the Future

From their first streetcar in 1908 to today's fleet of 876 diesel, community buses, and the LRT System of 37 vehicles and 11 stations, Edmonton Transit (ETS) continues to provide the City of Edmonton with a variety of public transportation services.

Some of the programs and activities that ETS participates in for city junior and senior high schools include:

- involvement in school open houses
- Special Duty constables monitor major Transit Centres during the after school rush
- cameras on buses are used on School Special routes
- ETS Security has a dedicated investigator who deals with student passes and misconduct
- participation in Edmonton Public Schools' First Riders program for students transitioning to ETS service
- maintaining successful partnerships with School Resource Officers

ETS offers reduced student fares (additional subsidies applied by Edmonton Public Schools), travel training, and community outreach programs as part of their dedication to student travelers. Check out their website at www.takeETS.com for details.

Edmonton Transit Unrestricted Weekend Use

Student Transportation would like to remind parents and students that ETS student bus passes are now valid for use seven days per week. These improved services were reflected on bus passes starting January 2009.

Yellow school bus passes are available only at schools and are intended for use on yellow school buses. Each yellow bus pass is also valid for six trips on regular ETS service. The student must have their pass punched by an ETS operator, and obtain a valid transfer.

For more information on ETS service for Edmonton Public Schools' students, please contact Edmonton Transit at www.takeETS.com, your child's school, or Student Transportation at <http://transportation.epsb.net>.

ETS Trip Planner and Google Transit

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.

In addition to Edmonton Transit's Trip Planner, Google Maps now provides route information for the Edmonton Transit System. It operates using the same scheduling data used by the ETS Trip Planner, but presents it in the traditional Google format that is familiar to so many people.

Visit Google at www.google.com/transit and select Edmonton from the map or text version, or visit www.takeETS.com and select the *Google Transit* link from the *ETS Online Tools*.

Reminder of Application Deadline for 2009-10

Parents are reminded that the Student Transportation application deadline for guaranteed yellow bus service for the first day of school is **May 29, 2009**. In order to ensure your child is routed for the fall, be sure to return the application to your school as soon as possible.

2009-10 Student Transportation Calendar

The new 2009-10 Student Transportation Calendar, including a complete schedule for fixed route changes for the year, will soon be available to all parents and schools at <http://transportation.epsb.net> under *What's New*.

Designated Receiving Neighbourhood Stop Locations

Students in neighbourhoods without a local school are designated to a nearby school that is able to accommodate those students. If transportation is available, the stops are in locations that ensure all households have reasonable access. Our preferred stop locations include ETS bus stops and the far side of intersections. Parent requests for changes to these stop locations are not possible to accommodate, as careful planning has been done to ensure access for all households and not individual riders.

Efforts are made to place stops within 400 meters of a student's home, depending on road structure within the neighbourhood. Stop locations within designated receiving neighbourhoods are reviewed by Student Transportation throughout the year to assess road structure changes that might impact stop locations.

Show Your Bus Pass

All students are required to show a valid bus pass each day, regardless of whether it is a yellow or ETS pass. 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. A principal may choose to suspend transportation privileges for any student who consistently fails to show a bus pass.

Respect your Neighbourhood

When waiting at a designated stop, students should:

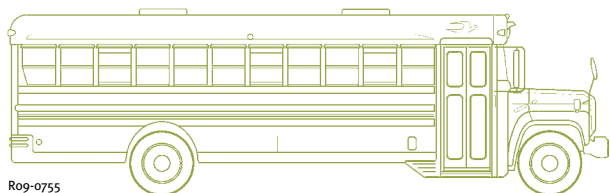
- wait in an orderly fashion, well back from the side of the road;
- respect private property and keep noises to a minimum at the bus stop;
- behave responsibly at the bus stop, while on the bus and while getting on or off the bus; and
- treat fellow riders with respect and courtesy.

Improving Safety

New safety initiatives on school buses continue to be put in place to show Edmonton Public Schools is a leader in the industry, and demonstrate continual improvements. All yellow buses will soon be fitted with strobe lights, reflective tape, and have passenger detection systems installed. Location technology (GPS) systems are scheduled for a Pilot Program in the coming year.

Need More Information?

Visit the Student Transportation website 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 school.



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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.