

Transportation to Students with Special Needs

studentTRANSPORTATION



Student Transportation at Edmonton Public Schools strives to provide safe and efficient transportation for more than 25,000 students who take a bus to school each day.

Edmonton Transit (ETS)

ETS is the preferred means of student transportation.

We work closely with ETS to ensure all students have access to close and reliable transit routes. ETS passes are available at a subsidized price through your child's school. For more information on ETS route and schedule information, contact ETS at 780-496-1611 or visit www.takeETS.com.

Yellow bus transportation

Special transportation is provided for eligible students with moderate or severe disabilities. Eligibility is based on the severity of your child's disability or recommendation by the principal to attend a special education needs program at a school other than your neighbourhood's designated school.

The principal of your child's school will work with you to determine which form of transportation would best benefit your child. Depending on your child's needs, one of the following transportation options may be available:

- 1. Parent provided:** A service for funded eligible students not able to safely use other transportation methods. Parents are reimbursed by Edmonton Public Schools at a set rate based on the number of days their child is transported to and from school, with a minimum of 20 school days in one pay period. Payment for parent provided transportation is reimbursed three times per year, with cheques mailed in February, May and July.
- 2. Fixed Route:** Students ride standard yellow buses. They are picked up and dropped off at designated stop locations along with other neighbourhood children. Principals consider your child and consult their educational team (teacher, teacher assistant, administration and parents) to ensure this option is in the best interest of your child.
- 3. Curb Service:** A shared bus service that uses small to moderate sized specially equipped school buses. This minimizes passenger loads and facilitates curbside pick-ups and drop-offs, where possible. Due to the high costs of curb service, non-special needs students will not be transported using this service.



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.

Student Transportation

Monday to Friday · 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Tel: 780-429-8585

SPECIAL NEEDS Transportation

How to apply

To ensure your child receives bus service on the first day of school, you must complete an application form before May 15 for each year that yellow bus transportation is required. Application forms are available at your child's school.

Confirmation letters are mailed in mid-August with details regarding route numbers, stop locations and pick-up and drop-off times based on the information on your child's application. Route information is also available at your child's school prior to the first day of school. Once confirmed for services, you will also receive a copy of our *Parents' Guide to Yellow Bus Service*.



Transportation Fees

Transportation fees are set annually and are payable to your child's school. This fee must be paid annually or monthly to ensure your child receives uninterrupted bus service. Please contact your child's school or the Student Transportation department at 780-429-8585 for current fees.

Wheelchairs

To ensure your child is able to travel safely, some of our special education needs school buses are equipped with electric loading and unloading ramps, as well as floor inserts to fasten wheelchairs securely to the bus.

School Bus Safety

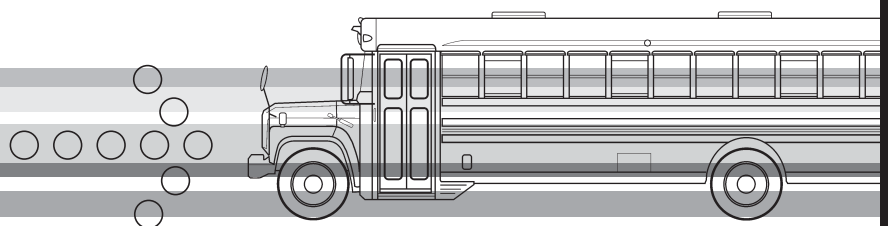
Our top priority is student safety. Students are expected to behave in a responsible manner at the bus stop, during loading and unloading, and while the bus is en route. Students are responsible to the bus operator and principal for their behaviour. You can help us ensure the safety of all passengers by teaching your child the importance of following pedestrian and bus safety rules at all times.

All yellow school buses within the District are maintained to the highest standard and are equipped with two-way radios. All drivers have additional safety driving certification and first aid training. Schools also have access to safety education programs.

The principal of your child's school reserves the right to suspend busing privileges when they feel it is necessary. Bus service will be reinstated when the issue has been resolved.

As a parent/caregiver, you are responsible for bringing your child to the bus and for taking custody of your child from the bus after the return trip home. Drivers are instructed that Kindergarten students will not be unloaded without a guardian to accept custody of the child.

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