

Did you know that almost all serious injury or fatalities happen outside the bus, while loading or unloading students? Your role in helping to ensure that your child has a safe busing experience is very important.

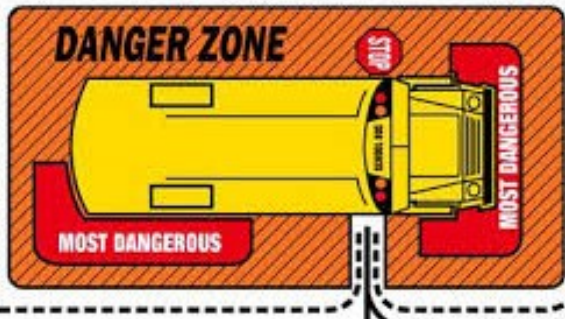
Teach your child the following safety rules:

### **KNOW THE DANGER ZONE:**

Stay out of the danger zone at all times!

- \*When waiting for the school bus stand well back from the curb. Don't run towards the oncoming bus!
- \*Remember - if you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you!
- \*Never go near the bus unless the driver has given you the signal to come!
- \*Never, ever walk, or play behind a vehicle!
- \*When you go near the bus, always be sure you can see the bus driver!
- \*If you drop anything in the danger zone leave it! Never stop to pick it up!
- \*If you can touch the bus, you're too close!
- \*Never run to or from the bus!
- \*The 10 Giant Step rule is a good measurement for children to identify the DANGER ZONE around the school bus, particularly

DANGER FROM PASSING TRAFFIC



Please ensure your children are aware of the area around the bus which is called the Danger Zone. Students should never walk in the Danger Zone as the bus driver cannot see them from his/her seat. More students are injured outside of the school bus than when riding the school bus.

### **Who can ride the bus?**

If your child is a rural student you may register for the bus at the same time you register for school. For in-town shuttle services, there is a form on the Chinook's Edge Website under Transportation/Forms called the Urban Transportation form. This form must be filled out and sent into the office of Transportation Services in order to register for in-town shuttle busing. If your child is less than 2.4 km from their designated school there is a yearly fee.

**IF THERE IS A FEE, PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THE REGISTRATION FORM OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

### **Rules of the Road: Driving near Buses**

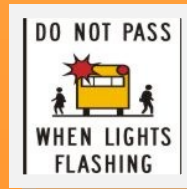
Alternating flashing amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop. **Do the same!**

No matter which direction you are coming from, **STOP** whenever approaching a stopped bus with activated alternating flashing red lights— unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway.

Motorists should always watch for children crossing the road and be prepared to slow down or stop.

The speed limit in most school zones and playgrounds is 30 kilometers per hour. Pay attention to posted speed limits.

Driver courtesy goes a long way. By simply being alert and cautious when approaching a school bus, you are contributing to school bus safety.



At Chinook's Edge we take the responsibility of transporting your child to and from school very seriously. Our commitment to on-going driver training, driver meetings, regular driver evaluations, professional development days and a first class mechanical department all help to keep us "Driving for Safety"!

Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73

# Transportation Services



## PARENT GUIDE TO BUSING



*Our Motto....Driving For Safety!*

4404-42nd Avenue  
Innis fail, AB T4G 1P6  
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Fax 403-227-7217  
Toll Free 1-800-266-9573  
www.chinooksedge.ab.ca  
Email: transportation@cesd73.ca

## Welcome to a new school year!

This guide will help you and your child understand the busing system and the expectations of your child on the bus. Please take the time to review the guide with your child. The guide includes common questions that parents ask the Transportation Department and their bus driver.

The bus driver is the parents' first contact regarding questions about the route. All parents receive a contact number for the driver. Prior to the start of school the bus driver will inform you of your child's pickup and drop off times. Please remember to notify your driver if your child is not going to be on the bus.

Transportation Services is available to answer any questions that you may have. Please contact us at

1-800-266-9573 or 403-227-7072

## COMMON QUESTIONS....

- **What if my child is not going to be on the bus?** Call the driver the night before, or before the driver leaves for their morning run (the driver will provide you with his/her contact number). If you are unable to contact the driver at either time, you may try contacting our office after 7:00 am and we will try to relay the message to the driver.
- **When do rural bus students require a permission slip for the bus driver?** If a student is not a "registered" Chinook's Edge rider, he/she may ride home (as a guest) on occasion with another "registered" rural bus student providing they have a note signed and dated from their parent to give to the driver. No student can ride a Chinook's Edge bus unless he/she is a student registered at a Chinook's Edge school. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate such requests on our urban shuttle buses due to full capacities.
- **Are there any restrictions as to what my child can take on the bus?** According to the Highway Traffic Act, a student may not carry animals, firearms, skis, snowboards, skate boards, and skates without guards, or anything sharp that could cause injury to others. Band instruments are allowed but must fit underneath the seats of the bus. Large instruments are not allowed.

- **Will the driver wait for my child if he/she is running late in the morning?**

Students are to be out at the bus stop five (5) minutes before their scheduled time. Remember, waiting one minute at 10 stops makes the bus 10 minutes late, therefore, the driver must remain on schedule. If time permits the driver may wait briefly.

- **Will the driver contact me if my child is causing a disturbance on the bus?**

The normal discipline process is as follows:

**FIRST INFRACTION** — the driver will speak in private with the student, and the incident will be documented.

**SECOND INFRACTION** — the driver will speak with the student again and the parent will be notified. The incident will be documented.

**THIRD INFRACTION** — the driver will meet with the principal and present all the documentation on the student. The principal may decide at that time whether the student may lose their busing privileges. The length of the suspension is the decision of the principal. There may be certain occasions where the first and second infraction will be bypassed and the driver will consult with the principal immediately.

- **Should I contact the driver directly to report concerns?** Parents are encouraged to talk directly to the driver, as this is the quickest method of solving problems on the bus.
- **Should I walk my child to the bus stop and meet them in the afternoon?** Parents are always encouraged to supervise their children at their stop. The driver cannot monitor any behavior while the child is waiting at the stop, or after they have been dropped off at their stop.
- **What type of clothing should my child wear on the bus during the winter?** All children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 should be dressed appropriately — this may include gloves, a toque, winter jacket, snow pants if possible, and winter boots. This way, in the event of a breakdown or any other unforeseen delay, you can rest assured that your child will be safe and comfortable until the bus is on its way again.

- **How will I be notified if the bus is not running, or if it is going to be late?** In the event that your bus is cancelled you will be contacted by our **School Messenger System** (text/email/phone call) or your driver may contact you by phone. **Additionally, if all buses are cancelled** the local radio stations will be contacted. Also bus cancellations and delays are posted on our Chinook's Edge website at [www.chinooksedg.ab.ca/Transportation/Route Delays and Cancellations](http://www.chinooksedg.ab.ca/Transportation/Route Delays and Cancellations). If your bus is running **more than 15 minutes late** you will be contacted by School Messenger (text/email/phone call). **Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date with the schools.**
- **If the bus does not run in the morning will it run in the afternoon?** If the bus has mechanical problems in the morning, it will run in the afternoon. If it doesn't run due to inclement weather conditions, **it will not run in** the afternoon. In the case of a cancellation due to localized fog conditions in the morning, the bus will run in the afternoon.

For information regarding Transportation Services Policies and Procedures please visit our Chinook's Edge website at [www.chinooksedg.ab.ca/Board of Education/ Policies and Procedures](http://www.chinooksedg.ab.ca/Board of Education/ Policies and Procedures). For information regarding Inclement Weather guidelines also visit our website at Transportation/Inclement Weather and download our brochure at the bottom of the page.

## WHY NO SEAT BELTS?

Research indicates that seat belts may actually adversely affect the safety of children (Transport Canada). School buses are designed differently from passenger cars in that they protect passengers through "compartmentalization", a design that includes:

- Seats with high backs
- Seats filled with energy-absorbing material
- Seats placed close together to form compartments
- Strong seat anchorages

