



CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
1000-5th Avenue S.W., Calgary AB T2P T49



KINDERGARTEN TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Is my Kindergarten child eligible for transportation? YES, IF the following conditions are met:

- Your child attends the **designated** kindergarten program for your community **AND** your residence is located further than 1.2 km from your designated school; or special circumstances approved by the District.

What transportation services are available for eligible kindergarten children?

- Eligible kindergarten children at regular program schools may access regular morning and end of day yellow school bus routes when available at your child's school and the child meets the criteria above. Parents must complete and submit a Transportation Registration form to the school. Contact your school to get a form.
- Eligible kindergarten children attending Programs of Choice (i.e., French or Spanish Immersion or Fine Arts programs) may access the existing morning and end of day yellow bus service routes provided at that school which service all eligible students. Please note that at CCSD schools, **noon transportation is not available for kindergarten children attending Programs of Choice schools.**

What is the fee for kindergarten transportation?

- Kindergarten children who are provided only **one-way transportation** (i.e., either **TO** half-day morning Kindergarten classes **OR FROM** half-day afternoon Kindergarten classes) will not be charged a transportation fee by the school.
- Kindergarten children who receive **two-way transportation both to and from school** (i.e., **both AM and PM/or NOON transportation**) are asked to pay an annual transportation fee, payable by cheque to the name of the school. The fee amount is determined by June of the previous school year during the School Board's budget process. The fee will be posted in mid to late June on the district website at www.cssd.ab.ca. The fee is payable only during the school year in which the service is provided, so no pre-payments will be accepted by the school.

NOON Kindergarten transportation services are provided at a very limited number of CCSD schools, under the following circumstances:

- The district offers NOON Kindergarten transportation only to families who are directed to a CCSD school in a community located a substantial distance from their home community. A minimum number of families must register for the Noon Kindergarten service (i.e., roughly 10 students) in order for the district to arrange the service.
- Students may be required to attend either the AM or the PM class in order to receive the arranged NOON bus service to and from their particular community.

REGISTRATION FOR NOON SERVICE: If it is offered at your school, and you wish to have your child access **NOON transportation**, please fill out a special "NOON KINDERGARTEN CHARTER TRANSPORTATION" form, **AS WELL AS** the **regular transportation** registration form (for daily bus routes that service the Grades 1-6 students at the school). These are considered two separate bus services.

- You may register your child for the NOON Kindergarten route by the end of June for the following September. You may also register at any time through the school year. (*The school has access to the NOON Kindergarten Transportation Registration Form*). Note that it may take two to three weeks to get a stop added on a NOON bus route when parents register in September due to the busy transportation start-up time.

What is the start date for NOON transportation for kindergarten classes?

- Noon Kindergarten Bus Routes are finalized just before school starts in September. The transportation department staff sends the route(s) to the school office. The school typically has the Kindergarten teacher(s) provide a copy to the parents of each student who is registered for the NOON bus route(s). At schools that are provided with **Noon Kindergarten transportation**, the service normally starts the second week after school opening. Parents will be advised by their school of the date on which noon transportation service is set to start in September.
- **Route updates** may occur at any time throughout the year. The school office will hand out route updates to every child who rides the buses (either the regular route and/or the NOON Kindergarten route). Route updates may affect the student's stop location or pickup/dropoff time(s), so it is important for parents to check their child's stop every time a route update is provided, in case there are changes that affect their child. As new stops are added to a route, or unused stops deleted from a route, the bus stop pickup times change.

Questions???? Please call your School Principal or the district's Transportation Department at 403-500-2458



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Safety Information for First-time School Bus Riders:

- Please visit the school district's website at: www.cssd.ab.ca. Click the menu "Transportation". On the main Transportation Page, scroll down and read the *"My First Ride"* program and presentation information. **Watch the powerpoint program because it contains important school bus safety tips for you and your child.**
- **Please be aware that the district does not provide student rider lists to bus drivers or to the bus company.** In Calgary, the bus driver who drives your child's route could change on any given day, due to a short-term or long-term absence. The bus company then sends in a replacement driver, often with little notice, who will not know your child or any others on the bus route. It is important for Kindergarten students to sit near the front of the bus, closer to the driver, so that if the student has any confusion about where to get off the bus, **they can identify themselves as a Kindergarten child to the bus driver and ask for help.**
- **Child Identification:** Parents must ensure their child has their name and phone number either on their jacket or in their knapsack. This is so that in emergency situations, the bus driver can determine where the child should be dropped, and/or also so that the company can contact the parent.
- **PM Kindergarten children who ride the bus home must be met at their bus stop by a parent or caregiver.** If the parent/caregiver is not there, the bus driver will carry on with the route. The child must STAY on the bus if they do not see the parent or caregiver, and TELL the bus driver that the expected parent/caregiver is not there. The driver will then continue the route and finish it, then return to the child's bus stop location. Repeated instances of the parent or caregiver not being at the bus stop could result in the student's bus riding privileges being cancelled. If a driver goes to the bus stop a second time and the parent is not there or has not contacted the bus company, the driver may return the child to his/her school (if there is someone still at the school to accept the child), OR the driver may drop the child off with Social Services or the Calgary Police.
- **Parents must ensure their child is familiar with their neighborhood and can recognize their bus stop to the best of the child's ability.** Children must not get off at a friend's bus stop instead of their own, to have a play date. For safety reasons, the school bus is not to be used to get children to and from play dates. Please teach your child never to do this, because then you (the parents) will not know where your child is.
- **Missed Bus Stop?** Parents should teach their child that they must be courageous and speak to the bus driver in situations where the child knows they accidentally missed getting off at their bus stop. This will help to avoid the child getting off at a wrong bus stop and getting lost.
- **Lost Child?** All district bus routes contain the name of the bus company and the company's phone number at the top of the page. Please keep the bus route schedules handy for your reference. In very rare cases, a child does not get off at their bus stop as expected. If this happens with your child, call the bus company and the school. The child may have got on the wrong bus route, gotten off the bus at the wrong bus stop or gone home with a friend. The bus company and the school will work with you to find your child. Buses have two-way radios to communicate with the bus drivers in urgent situations.
- **Route updates** may occur at any time throughout the year. The school office will hand out route updates to every child who rides the buses (either the regular route and/or the NOON Kindergarten route). Route updates may affect the student's stop location or pickup/dropoff time(s), so it is important for parents to check their child's stop every time a route update is provided, in case there are changes that affect their child. As new stops are added to a route, or unused stops deleted from a route, the bus stop pickup times change.



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