

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION

STOPR

Preparing your kindergarten child to ride the school bus

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) is a consortium, operating on behalf of both the Peel District School Board and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, which provides bussing service for thousands of students each year.

Riding the school bus is a new experience for kindergarten children. The following information will help you prepare your child to ride the school bus.

Who may ride the school bus?

Kindergarten students who live more than one kilometre from the school qualify for transportation.

What you should know?

- Because central pick-up and drop-off locations are used, children have to walk from their home to the school bus stop.
- Your child's school will inform you of bus times and bus stop locations. Schedules are approximate, so students should be at bus stops at least five minutes before the designated time.
- Sometimes bus drivers can't enter new subdivisions because of construction activity. In this situation, you are responsible for taking your child to the nearest bus stop.
- Kindergarten is either a half-day or a full-day program depending on the school
- Children in the half-day, morning program ride the bus to school with older children from other elementary grades, but on their trip home they ride exclusively with other kindergarten children. Children enrolled in the half-day afternoon program ride to school exclusively with other kindergarten children, but on their trip home they ride with older children.

- Children in the full-day program ride the bus to and from school with older children from other elementary grades.

Meeting your child at the bus stop

You are responsible for your children before they step on the bus and the moment they step off the bus.

If no one meets your child at the bus stop, the bus driver is required to take the child back to school.

Special safety features

The following safeguards will assist kindergarten students during the first few weeks of school:

Primary protocol for transported students:

The primary protocol for transported students has been implemented in order to enhance the safety of those kindergarten students who are transported home by bus in the afternoon at the end of the school day. All kindergarten students must be met by a parent/caregiver at their designated stop. Students who are not met will be returned to the school by the driver at the end of the bus run or route. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that these students are met daily. In order to ensure that this procedure is successfully, we need the cooperation of school administration, bus drivers and parents.

Identification tags

The school will give identification tags to kindergarten students identifying their school, bus run and bus stop location. This ensures that children get off the bus at the right place. Please make sure that your child wears the identification tag.

Bus numbers:

Each school bus has a run number posted in the window

Bus stops:

Bus drivers will also call out the name of each bus stop to help children get off the bus at the correct stop. Please make sure your child knows the name of the bus stop

Safety video:

In early September, all kindergarten children view a bus safety video. The video presents the basic safety rules of riding a bus. Kindergarten teachers supplement the video with classroom instruction.

Tips to help make your child's bus ride safe

You can help keep your child safe on the bus by sharing the following tips with your child:

At the bus stop

- Stay back from the road
- Wait quietly in line when getting on and off the bus
- Stay back until the bus stops, its lights start flashing and the door opens
- Get on and off the bus one at a time
- Wait your turn to get on the bus – don't push or shove
- Always look both ways before crossing in front of the bus
- Speak quietly to your friends and try not to raise your voice
- Keep your pet at home – pets at the bus stop may distract children from getting on the bus

On the bus

- Sit properly in your seat
- You can talk to your friends
- Stay in your seat – never stand when the bus is moving

When you leave the bus

- Look in all directions before you cross the street
- Use your eyes and ears before you use your feet
- Go straight home – don't make any stops along the way
- Walk – don't run
- Stay three metres (the length of a car) or more from the front of the bus

Things to remember

- Your name, address and telephone number
- Your school and teacher's name
- Your bus driver's name

You can help keep your child safe

- Plan your schedule so that your child does not arrive at the bus stop too early – your child may be tempted to wander or get into mischief
- If it is dark on the way to or from the bus, make sure your child wears light-coloured or reflective clothing to make sure he or she is visible
- Make sure your child knows what to do if he or she misses the bus – come back home or, if at school, report to a teacher – and never accept a ride from a stranger

Student behaviour affects bus safety

The behaviour of each student on the bus directly affects the safety of others. The bus driver reports incidents of poor behaviour on the bus in writing to the school principal. Depending on the seriousness of the incident, the principal may issue a warning to the student, speak to parent, suspend bus privileges or take other disciplinary action.

Kindergarten orientation

Included in this package is an invitation for you and your child to attend the Young Rider School Bus Orientation Program on Saturday, August 27th, 2011.

For more information

For more information, contact your school principal for the transportation office in your area:

Special Ed Area Office (905) 890-6362

West Area Office (905) 890-0614

**East Area Office (905) 890-6000
1-800-668-1140**

For more information on school bus safety, call the Canada Safety Council at (613) 739-1535 or visit the school bus safety web site at www.elmer.ca