



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

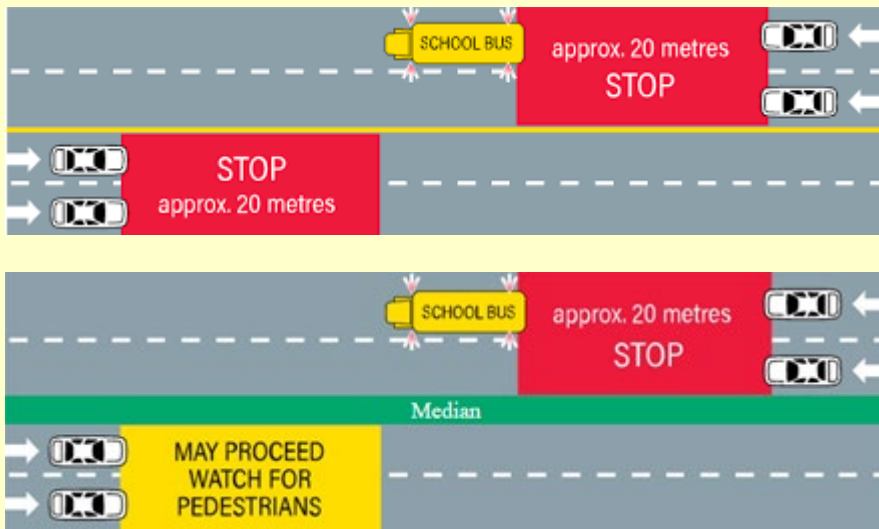
8-Way Light System and Fly By Reporting

Did you know that outside of Calgary and Airdrie city limits the 8-way warning light system is utilized on school buses and regulated by law enforcement?

When approaching a school bus from either direction, and the alternating amber lights are flashing, you should prepare to stop. This is an indication that the bus is going to be stopping and students will be approaching or exiting the bus.

When the school bus comes to a complete stop, its alternating red lights will begin flashing and the STOP sign arm will extend. This is an indication that the bus will begin loading or unloading students. Vehicles must come to a full stop ~20 meters away from the bus and are not permitted to pass. This goes for vehicles approaching the bus in either direction - unless the road is divided by a median - then traffic in the opposite lane(s) may proceed with caution.

Failure to stop for a school bus is a ticket-able violation that may cost offending drivers up to \$486 in fines and 6 demerit points.



Why are 8-way light systems used in some municipalities and not others? As per Alberta's Traffic Safety Act, a municipality may pass a bylaw to govern times and locations at which these lights may not be used. The majority of the communities that are home to our schools utilize and enforce this light system at all times and in every location in an effort to keep our students safe.

For more information, please visit the Alberta [website](#).

To report a vehicle that has passed a stopped school bus using its 8-way warning lights, please complete the [Fly By Form](#).

Inclement Weather

School buses do not typically run on mornings when the temperature is at or lower than -40 degrees Celsius without wind chill. When the weather is severe or road conditions are hazardous, certain bus routes may be cancelled. However, this does not necessarily mean schools are closed. Once student transportation has begun, a school will not close until regular dismissal time.

In the event that morning transportation needs to be cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be made through the local radio stations, updated on the Bus Status App, and communicated to RVS families through the SMS service if you have opted in (this service is currently not available for CSSD families). Afternoon service cancellations will be re-evaluated throughout the morning and then updated on the Bus Status App by noon, should a route be cancelled.

More information is available on our [Inclement Weather](#) page.

Bus Status App

Our school bus operators are required to notify families, the schools, and transportation services if the bus is running more than 10 minutes late. Buses can be delayed for many reasons including inclement weather, traffic, road closures, construction, and vehicle breakdowns. Always have a back-up plan in case of bus delays.

Late buses will be updated on the Bus Status website. You can also download the Bus Status App to your smartphone to see when your bus is delayed.

Links for the Bus Status App can be found on our [website](#).

Non-Permissible Items on the School Bus

School bus contractors will try to accommodate students with the transportation of articles and equipment for extra-curricular activities. However, some items cannot be transported on school buses due to safety concerns and/or available space. All permissible items must be tightly secured and/or safely contained within the bus seat. Additionally, they must not impede access to the aisle, emergency exits, or the driver's line of sight (i.e., block the window). The bus driver reserves the right to refuse any item they may deem unsafe to transport. If you are unsure if an item will be permitted, please email Transportation for assistance.

Students are prohibited from smoking, vaping, or using e-cigarettes while being transported on the school bus. Additional non-permissible items include:

- Drugs or alcohol
- Weapons of any kind
- Knives
- Fuel, matches, and/or lighters
- Laser pens
- Skateboards and scooters
- Any other item that may pose a threat to other passengers

Daylight Savings - Spring Forward

Just a reminder - March 12, 2023, at 2:00am the time will "spring forward" by 1 hour. Don't forget to change your clocks for Monday morning!

Upcoming School Closures

Rocky View Schools

February 20th - Family Day

February 21st/22nd - Vacation

February 23rd/24th - Teachers' Convention (No Classes)

Catholic Schools

February 16th/17th - Teachers' Convention (No Classes)

February 20th - Family Day

**For more information
please visit our [website](#)**

*Rocky View Schools
Transportation Department*