



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

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 weather is severe or road conditions are hazardous, certain bus routes may be canceled. 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 canceled 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've 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 canceled.

Bus contractors update delays **over** 10 minutes on the [Bus Status App](#).

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

Cold Weather Tips:

- Stay with your child at the bus stop until they have been picked up, or have a back-up plan in place.

- Dress your child in warm, insulating layers close to their body, with wind and waterproof layers on the outside. Keep their head covered.
- Cover exposed areas such as fingers, cheeks, ears, and nose. Consider sending your child with spare gloves and a hat just in case!

Permissible/Non-Permissible Items on the Bus

School bus contractors will try to accommodate students with the transportation of articles and equipment for extra-curricular activities. However, some items will not be able to be transported due to safety and/or available space. All permissible items must be tightly secured and/or safely contained within the bus seat. Additionally, they must not impede 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.

Permissible items include:

- Backpacks and lunch containers
- Textbooks and school supplies
- Small school projects or dioramas
- Small band instruments
- Skates or sport balls, enclosed in a canvas bag

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
- Fuel, matches and/or lighters
- Laser pens
- Any other item that may pose a threat to other passengers

If your child has a change to their mobility or medical needs that may be a safety concern on the bus, please contact Transportation to discuss how we can accommodate them.

Ride-Alongs

Rocky View Transportation does not authorize ride-alongs. Students must ride their assigned route(s) and are not permitted to board buses that they are not registered to. This is due to bus capacity, monitoring ridership, seating plans, and student safety.

To add a secondary stop to your bus service, please complete the 'Secondary Stop Request Form' in your SchoolEngage account, and submit it with payment. This form can be requested by emailing Transportation.

Ongoing Driver Shortages

School bus contractors in Rocky View School Division, and across the province, are currently experiencing driver shortages and a high rate of driver absenteeism due to circumstances beyond their control, which are causing delays to bus routes. This situation is fluctuating daily, so please be sure to monitor the [Bus Status App](#) which will provide information regarding late bus routes.

Contractors are working hard to keep all bus routes running while managing the changing scenarios. Our goal is to ensure the late bus information is accurate and posted with as much advance notice for parents as possible.

We cannot foresee what the next days and weeks will look like, but you can be assured that everyone is doing the best they can.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these driver shortages.

Upcoming School Closures

Rocky View Schools:

- December 5th - Professional Learning Day

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

*Rocky View Schools
Transportation Department*