



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly RVS Transportation Newsletter. We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing and re-invigorating summer break! Each month we will feature timely news and information relevant to RVS Transportation users. Watch for the newsletter by the 15th of each month. Please also check out the [Transportation page](#) on the RVS website for other useful information and links.

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 fluctuates 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 families 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.

Bus Passes

Bus passes for students new to school bus service will arrive by mail in the coming weeks. If your student(s) rode the bus last year, please remember to retain their bus pass(es) as a new one will not be issued automatically. Replacements for lost bus passes can be purchased online through the SchoolEngage portal or in person at our service counter located at the RVS Education Centre.

Bus pass pouches are too bulky to be sent in the general mail, and therefore they will be delivered to your student(s) directly via the bus driver.

Requests - Processing Times

We are currently still focusing on processing new registrations and adding students to bus routes. In the month of October, we will re-assess routes for efficiencies, and we will begin to process any parent requests for route/stop changes. We thank you for your patience during this busy time.

All current stops that are in place have been audited for safety and approved by our Safety Coordinator. Getting to and from the bus stop is a parent/guardian responsibility.

Cancellation Reminder

Full fee refunds are available if you cancel service by completing the 'Cancellation Form' prior to October 31st.

To complete the 'Cancellation Form', access your SchoolEngage portal, click on the 'Students' tab in the left-side menu, and select your student's name. The form will populate, and a separate 'Cancellation Form' must be completed for each student.

Permissible/Non-Permissible Items

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 that they may deem unsafe to transport. If you are unsure if an item will be permitted, please email RVS Transportation for assistance.

Permissible items include:

- Backpacks and lunch containers
- Textbooks and school supplies
- Small school projects or dioramas
- Small band instruments
- Skates or sports 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 RVS Transportation to discuss how we can accommodate them.

Upcoming Closures

Please note that the RVS Education Centre will be closed on September 29th in lieu of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. However, CCSD bus routes will be operating on this date and staff will be available in the office for messages and emergencies.

Rocky View Schools:

September 29th - No Classes for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

October 6th - Professional Learning Day

October 9th - Thanksgiving Day

CCSD Schools:

September 22nd - Parent/Teacher Conferences Grades K-9

October 6th - Professional Growth Day

October 9th - Thanksgiving Day

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

*Rocky View Schools
Transportation Department*