



## TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

### Inclement Weather

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School buses do not typically run in the 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.

Bus contractors update delays over 10 minutes on the Bus Status App.

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

**It is important NOT to leave your child at the bus stop in severe weather for any period of time.**

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!

## Ongoing Driver Shortage

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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 affects reliable bus service. 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. We are aware that route delays and inconsistent schedules are frustrating for parents and students alike. Several bus drivers are having to run second routes with significant delays just to ensure that students get to school at all. 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.

## Permissible Items

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School bus contractors will try to accommodate students with the transportation of articles and equipment for extracurricular 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.

## Upcoming School Closures

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On November 20th, Rocky View schools are closed. CCSD bus routes will be operating on this date, and staff will be available in the office for messages and emergencies.

### Rocky View Schools:

November 20th - Professional Learning Day (No Classes)

### Catholic Schools:

November 24th - Parent Teacher Conferences (no classes for designated grades)

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

*Rocky View Schools  
Transportation Department*