



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

Cancellation Deadline for Full Fee Refunds

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 account, click on the 'Students' tab on the left-hand side, and select your child's name. The 'Cancellation Form' will populate in the list of forms. A separate 'Cancellation Form' must be completed for each student. Please allow 7-14 business days to process the cancellation.

Ongoing Driver Shortage

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 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.

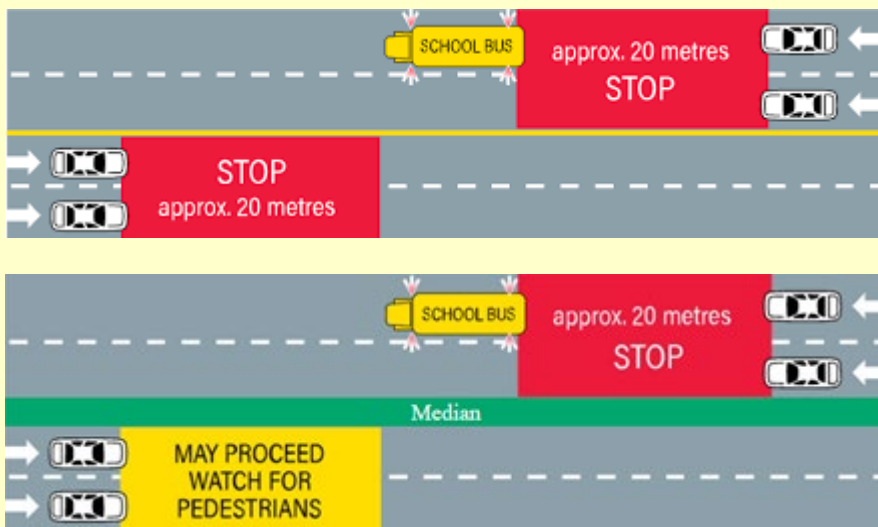
8-Way Light System

Did you know that outside of Calgary and Airdrie city limits the 8-way 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 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 ties and locations at which these lights may not be used. The majority of the communities that are home to our schools always utilize and enforce this light system and, in every location, to keep our students safe.

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

Stop Arm Cameras

As part of our commitment to improve passenger safety and raise public awareness, RVS Transportation has installed Stop Arm Cameras on some of the buses operating in Chestermere and Cochrane municipalities and within rural Rocky View County. These cameras are capable of recording the license plate number of the vehicles that illegally run the stop arm when it is out. Video clips of vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses may be provided to law enforcement for follow up.

Emergency Evacuations

Twice a year, emergency evacuation practices are carried out for most students on yellow buses, in cooperation with the school. About half of our schools have already performed their drills for this semester. These drills are described in the Alberta School Bus Driver Improvement Program and treated like a school fire drill.

Whether performing a drill or an actual evacuation, it is extremely important that everyone can hear the instructions of the bus driver. Listening and following the driver's instructions is key to guaranteeing everyone's safety. Exiting the bus in a quiet and orderly manner, moving to the designated area as directed, and waiting quietly for further instructions will ensure the success of the drill of emergency evacuation.

Permissible Items

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 Closures

Please note that the Rocky View Education Centre will be closed on November 10th in lieu of the Remembrance Day. 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:

November 10th - No Classes for Remembrance Day

Catholic Schools:

November 1st - No Classes for Distric Faith Date

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

*Rocky View Schools
Transportation Department*