

Responsibility of Parents/Guardians

Procedure 210

Revised: August 2024

Statement

Using transportation services offered by the board is a privilege, and a student's privileges may be revoked permanently or temporarily if there are safety/behaviour concerns on the bus or at the bus stop. [The provincial Code of Conduct](#) sets clear standards for behaviour that apply to parents/guardians and students, whether they are on school property, the school bus, or at the bus stop. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to know and understand their school board's code of conduct as well as Tri-Board's transportation policy and procedures, including the distance requirements for transportation and travelling to the bus stop.

Procedure

The following are guidelines for Parents/Guardians of transported students:

Bus Stop Supervision

As per transportation policy section 6 –*Responsibility of the Parent/Guardians*, parents/guardians are responsible for their students' safety while going to, coming from, and waiting at the bus stop. This may include supervision and/or assisting in their commute to the stop. The inability to provide supervision is not a rationale for moving the stop location or changing the stop time. The timing of stops is based on the bus's arrival time at the school, and Tri-Board cannot adjust bus routes to accommodate Parent/Guardian work schedules and/or other personal circumstances.

Stops are established for use by multiple students and may be placed near public or private property. Damage to public or private property at the bus stop may result in the student's loss of transportation provisions. The responsibility for compensation for any damage or destruction of property by a student, is placed on the student and parent/guardian.

Parent/Guardian Conduct at the Stop

The school bus is the driver's and monitor's work environment, and they deserve your respect and courtesy. Harassment, threats, or physical violence will not be tolerated and may result in the student's loss of transportation provisions.

Parents/Guardians are not permitted on the school bus, except in cases where the student has been assigned safety equipment and, in such circumstances, only to secure or detach their student.

Due to the strict timing of the bus schedule, the driver does not have time for discussion at the stop. Questions/Concerns should be directed to the bus company or Tri-Board.

Parents/Guardians are discouraged from smoking/vaping, drinking, or drug use at the stop. Parents/Guardians should not be under the influence of alcohol or other substances while at the stop.

Stops are often used by multiple students. Parents/Guardians are expected to be respectful of other families. Harassment, threats, or physical violence between families will not be tolerated and may result in the student's loss of transportation provisions.

Meeting Students at the Stop

Students identified as needing to be met at the stop by a parent/guardian will remain on the bus if no one is present at the stop. At the end of the route, the student will be returned to the school into the custody of school administration and parents/guardians will need to pick them up at the school. All kindergarten students are provided purple "met-at-stop" tags for their backpacks and will not be let off the bus without a parent/guardian present unless prior consent is provided to the bus company. These tags can continue to be used year after year until families determine their students are of an age and maturity where they can be let off the bus alone. There is no set age, as every child and family will have different parameters for when this is appropriate.

Using the Student Transportation Portal

Parents/Guardians should create an account in the [Student Portal](#) so they can review their students' transportation information, such as stop locations and timing, and subscribe to bus status alerts. Bus status alerts are posted when the bus is delayed by 15+ minutes or cancelled. Learn about bus status alerts at triboard.ca/alerts.

If your contact information is incorrect in the portal, please update it with the school. The school will also need to be notified if your address has changed.

Because the bus cannot wait at the stop, students should be at the stop 5-10 minutes ahead of when it is scheduled to arrive. Subscribing to status alerts will help families plan their commute to the stop. If students are not at the stop when the bus arrives at its planned time, the bus will continue on its route. Even if the stop is directly outside the home, students should be waiting ready to board.

Alternative Commute Plans for Bus Cancellations

A school bus may be cancelled for a myriad of reasons throughout the school year, sometimes with very little notice. Families should have back-up plans in place for their students' commutes.

Student Behaviour and Misconduct

Student transportation is a privilege, not a right. Unsafe/disruptive riding behaviour may result in the permanent or temporary removal of transportation provisions for the student. Parents/Guardians need to be responsive to concerns over their student's bus riding behaviour. Rider expectations can be found in *AP 211 Responsibility of the Student (Bus Behaviour Expectations)*.

Damage to School Bus Property

The responsibility for compensation for any damage or destruction of board property by a student, is placed on the students and parent/guardian. This also applies to school buses.