



# School Bus Information

Livingstone Range School Division (LRSD) school bus drivers proudly and safely transport more than 2000 students to 14 schools across our jurisdiction. When it comes to ensuring children have a safe and comfortable bus ride to and from school, the LRSD Transportation office, school bus drivers, parents, and students all have a role to play.



## Our School Buses

Certified mechanics ensure all LRSD buses are in good working condition and reliable. In compliance with provincial legislation, safety inspections are performed every 6 months. In addition, each driver conducts daily pre-trip inspections before each run.

All LRSD buses are equipped with 2-way radios to communicate with the Transportation office and other drivers.

## Bus Driver Qualifications

Legislation requires that school bus drivers have the following:

- Valid Class 1 or Class 2 drivers license
- Commercial drivers abstract
- Criminal record check, including a vulnerable sector check
- S-endorsement course, specific to school bus operation.

Our competent and caring bus drivers are also trained in First Aid and receive ongoing safety training.

## Bus Driver Communication

Because bus drivers with LRSD communicate directly with families on their route, cell phones are used to receive and send phone calls and text messages with parents regarding their children. In some cases, a bus driver may choose a responsible student on their route to answer calls and texts from parents and relay the information to the driver. In other cases, drivers will check their phones only at certain times prior to their routes. Drivers will never use their phones while operating the bus.

## Pick-Up & Drop-Off

For rural busing, the provincial standard is to pick up students at the entrance to their property. In communities, bus stops along the route allow for convenient pick-up and drop-off locations.

Students should be ready at their stop 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and be properly dressed for the weather. School buses may be delayed due to weather or road conditions, so please ensure children are dressed so they can comfortably wait for the bus under all conditions.

After school, students will be dropped off at their stop. For the safety of younger children and children with special needs, a parent/ guardian must be at the stop when the student is dropped off or the bus driver may keep the student on the bus as they finish the route.

## Riding the School Bus

Student safety and comfort is increased when students follow these good passenger rules:

- Walk – don't run
- Keep aisles clear at all times
- Avoid distracting or disturbing the driver
- Abusive or offensive language will not be tolerated
- Never throw objects inside the bus or out of the windows
- Keep your hands, feet, arms, and head inside the bus windows at all times
- Promptly obey the driver's instructions
- Always treat your driver with respect and courtesy

## Getting On & Off the Bus

When boarding and exiting the bus, students should remember to:

- Hold the handrail and walk single-file without pushing or shoving
- Take your seat right away and remain seated until exiting the bus
- Have belongings organized and in your backpack before arriving at your stop
- Remain seated until the school bus comes to a complete stop
- Move away from the school bus after exiting, remembering the danger zone (areas on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver)
- If you must cross the road, wait at the front of the school bus until your driver gives you the signal to cross the road

## Transporting Equipment

In the interest of safety, only certain equipment is allowed on school buses, under the following conditions:

- Small musical instruments must be in cases and be kept on the student's lap whenever possible
- Ice skates must be carried in a sports bag or tied together with the blades covered; skateboards must be secured to or in a bag
- Parents are expected to provide transportation for their children when they have bulky or large items to transport

## Inclement Weather

Poor road conditions due to inclement weather may force cancellation of school bus service. Individual routes may be canceled due to the following conditions:

- -40° Celcius as of 6:00am
- Conditions that reduce visibility to 0.5 kilometers or less
- Freezing rain that makes road conditions treacherous
- Unpassable roads due to blowing and/or drifting snow
- Extreme wind conditions that make driving unsafe

The LRSD Transportation office and its drivers consult the Government of Alberta's 511 traveler and road condition information service along with RCMP-issued highway travel advisories and local weather conditions to determine route safety in adverse weather conditions.

If a driver cancels their route due to inclement weather, they will call their route families and the division Transportation office, which will then inform the schools. Bus route status is updated regularly and available on the division website at [www.lrsd.ca](http://www.lrsd.ca). Schools remain open even if bus routes are canceled.

Under normal circumstances, if a bus route is cancelled in the morning it will also not run the afternoon route.

## Know Your Route

It is important that you know your child's school bus route number and the name and phone number of the driver. Keep this information in a handy place, such as on your fridge or in your cell phone.

Route #: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

