



Powell River Board of Education School District 47

Learners Preparing for Challenges of Tomorrow

Transportation Department

4351 Ontario Avenue • Powell River • B.C. • V8A 1V3 • Phone: (604) 414-2612 • Fax: (604) 485-4895

General Guidelines and Expectations for Riding School Buses

Regular/Courtesy rider

Parents (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

In the best interests of your child's safety, please review these rules with your child and return the Application for School Bus Transportation, which is available online at <https://forms.sd47.bc.ca>, your child's school, and the School Board Office at 4351 Ontario Ave.

Deadline for all applications is May 1 for each upcoming school year.

Only students who complete the application and are approved for a bus pass will be eligible to ride the school bus.

After the information sheet is on file at the Transportation Office, your child will be permitted to ride their designated bus, as a regular rider, provided that you maintain the same residence. It is expected that students will carry their bus passes with them at all times when using School District buses.

To Parents and Students

It is expected that young riders (K-2) are met by a responsible adult afterschool. If there will not be an adult present please submit a note to the transportation office that you approve for your child to be dropped off unaccompanied. If no note is on file the student will be kept on the bus and a parent will be contacted to meet the bus at a later time, or the child will be returned to the school.

Students are expected to maintain good behaviour at bus stops, on the buses at all times and the same standard of behaviour as would be expected in their classroom at school. Failure to meet those behavioural expectations will result in consequences.

Consequences may range from a warning, loss of bus riding privileges and suspension from School.

All students must follow the instructions, directions and expectations established by the bus driver. The bus driver is in charge and students must meet his/her expectations as they would their teacher.

Students will normally only be allowed to board and disembark their assigned bus at their assigned stop. The

school principal may authorize another arrangement if they have received a request in writing from the parent. Students will not be allowed to use the buses for personal convenience.

Replacement passes will be provided at a minimal fee of \$5 each if lost or damaged from the School Board Office located at 4351 Ontario Avenue.

Loading and Unloading Procedures

Where possible, bus stops are located in areas where the school bus can pull completely off the road onto the shoulder to pick up or discharge students. In this case, flashing red lights may not be used.

When this procedure cannot be followed, the bus will remain on the roadway, and use red flashing lights to stop traffic

Please note that when red flashing lights are used, their purpose is to stop traffic – not to assist children in crossing the road. It is the view of the Board of School Trustees and the RCMP that if children are taught to cross roadways safely at bus stops, they will be better able to do so safely at all times.

Although traffic safety and busing procedures are reviewed each September in our schools, please take time to make sure your child understand how to ride school buses, and how to safely cross the road. Their lives depend on it.

Rules for safe bus transportation

Bus Loading

- Be at the bus stop FIVE MINUTES ahead of the posted schedule; the bus will not wait for those who are late.
- Use your designated bus stop only.
- Stay on the shoulder or sidewalk, well away from the pavement, while waiting for the bus. Do nothing that might hurt someone or damage someone's property.
- Remain well back from the bus as it comes into the bus stop, and wait until the bus is completely stopped before stepping near it.
- Do not run beside the bus as it comes to the bus stop.
- Board the bus in single file – do not push.

Bus Riding

- Take your seat right away and stay there.



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- Waiting time for the scheduled bus routes should be approximately 20 minutes. If the bus has not yet arrived by that time, you should return home.
- Remember that the bus driver is in full charge at all times. Follow the bus driver's instructions about staying seated and quiet and do nothing that might distract the driver's attention from the road.
- You may be assigned to a seat in which you must be seated at all time.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion. Do not leave your seat until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- SMOKING, EATING and DRINKING are not permitted on the bus. The following activities are also not permitted:
 - throwing objects
 - spitting
 - damaging the bus
 - shoving or pushing
 - shouting
 - obscene language
- Fighting, horseplay or any form of harassment will not be tolerated.
- Do not throw garbage or anything else on the floor or out of the bus window.
- Do not at any time extend your arms or head out of the windows.
- The bus driver is authorized to confiscate from a student any object or implement he or she feels has the potential to inflict bodily injury or cause damage to the bus.
- The aisle must be kept clear at all times. Keep your lunch kit, knapsack and other things out of the aisle.
- For safety reasons, the Motor Vehicle Act does NOT permit equipment such as skateboards, large musical instruments, skis, etc. All items carried by students must be small enough to be held on the student's lap without protruding into the aisle, onto the neighboring seat, or above the student's head. The driver will determine if a musical instrument or any other item is within the allowable size limit.
- Any damage to the bus or equipment must be reported at once to the driver.
- No student will be allowed to sit in the driver's seat.

Bus Unloading

- When leaving the bus, students should remain on the shoulder of the road until the bus has departed.
- If it is necessary to cross the road, move in front of the bus, look both ways and make sure there is no traffic and red lights are flashing.
- Never assume that other vehicles will just stop because the bus lights are flashing. Some motorists ignore or don't see these signals.
- Flashing lights are not a guarantee to stop traffic!

To the Parents of Courtesy Riders on School District Buses

Courtesy riders are:

Students who:

- are not eligible for regular school bus transportation because they live within the prescribed walk limits of their school (Based on as the crow flies 3.2 kilometers from school location)
- choose to attend a school other than their neighborhood school (cross-boundary)

These students are permitted to ride school buses on existing routes as courtesy riders provided there are seats available and only with the understanding of the following conditions:

- The courtesy rider system is not a scheduled service
- It may be discontinued at any time if conditions change
- The District will give notice of cancellation of courtesy services affecting significant numbers of students.
- If a bus reaches capacity load, extra buses will not be provided for courtesy riders
- Courtesy riders must adhere to the same rules as regular riders

If you wish your child to ride the bus as a courtesy rider, please complete the information sheet attached, and present it at the school office or School Board Office by May 1 of the current school year.

For more information regarding your child's eligibility, please call the School Board office at (604)414-2612.