



August 31, 2023

Families,

The first day of the 2023-24 school year is almost here! We look forward to welcoming students back to class next week, and those children starting for the very first time.

HRCE's Student Transportation Team has been busy preparing for your child's journey to and from school this summer. Here are a few things we would like you to know about student transportation, as you prepare for the year ahead:

Your Child's Busing Information

You can look up times and stops through [BusPlanner's Parent Portal](#). You will also receive email notifications of routing changes or bus cancellations/delays through this portal. You can also sign up for text message notifications. [Click here](#) for more information.

- If you need assistance logging in, we are here to help. Please get in touch with us at 902-431-4723 or email transportation@hrce.ca as soon as possible.
- Please note that you will only receive notifications if the delay is greater than 15 minutes.
- Families can change their primary/residential address information online by filling out the *HRCE Active Student Change of Address Form* found on our [Student Registration page](#). Families can also change their address by contacting their child's school.
- If you would like to add or updated your alternate address (e.g. daycare or after-school program), you may contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team directly year-round by calling 902-431-4723 or emailing transportation@hrce.ca.

Did you know that BusPlanner has a mobile app? With **BusPlanner Delays**, you can receive notifications on your phone about cancellations and delays. Download the app today for free on your [Apple](#) or [Android](#) device.

After you download, follow the instructions provided in the app to complete setup. **Please note:** once you have entered your child's busing information, the app **will not automatically update** if changes to their routing information occur (i.e. route number). You must **manually update** this information in the app to receive accurate notifications about your child's bus.

Safety: A Shared Responsibility

Rider safety is our number one priority. We all have a role to play in ensuring students get to and from school safely. Parents/guardians (or a designate) are responsible for:

- Accompanying Pre-Primary to Grade 2 children to the bus stop, supervising them until safely boarded, and greeting the child at the stop at the end of the day. If a parent/guardian
-

(or designate) is not at the stop to meet the child, you will be contacted, and your child will be returned to the school for pick up.

- Buckling and unbuckling the seat belt for your child (if they are less than 40 pounds and 57 inches in height, and only if a seat belt is available). Bus drivers cannot leave their seats. School staff will do this when the child is at school.
- To help our youngest riders arrive to/from school safely, we also implement the **Purple Tag Program** each September. This program helps school staff and bus drivers identify children in Grades Pre-Primary-2 to ensure they are not left alone at a stop and receive the assistance they may need. We'll be in touch with more details soon. In the meantime, [click here](#) for more information.

Please ensure your child arrives at the bus stop **at least 10 minutes early during the first month of school**. Once we have settled into our new system, riders may arrive at their stop a minimum of five minutes before pick-up time. Families may see some delays during the first few weeks of school.

Don't forget to review school bus safety measures with your children before the first day of school. [Click here](#) for more information. To watch a safety video to help your child prepare for their first day, [click here](#).

Welcome Back!

On behalf of the HRCE Student Transportation Team, we wish you and your family a safe, healthy and successful school year.

For more information on student transportation, please visit hrce.ca/transportation. As always, our team is here to answer your questions at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723.

Sincerely,

HRCE Student Transportation Team