



July 27, 2023

Families,

We are excited to have your child join us this September! We know that starting or returning to school is a big step for children (and their families), so we want to ensure you have the information you need about busing in advance.

### **How and when can I check my child's busing information?**

Families can view their child's transportation information, and receive email notifications about routing changes or bus cancellations/delays, through an online BusPlanner Parent Portal account. You will receive an email to activate the Parent Portal and review your child's bus information by the end of July. Once your account is activated, you can also sign up for text message notifications. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Important**

During the summer from **July 1 to August 25, 2023**, 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](#). As of **August 28, 2023**, families can continue to change their address online, or contact their child's school.

If you have an update to your alternate address (e.g. daycare or after-school program), you may contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team directly year-round by emailing [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or calling 902-431-4723.

Please note that changes to address information on file may affect bus routing and eligibility.

### **What do families need to know about busing in September?**

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 a minimum of five minutes before their scheduled pick-up time, 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, families will be contacted and the child will be returned to the school for pick-up after the bus run is complete.
  - Buckling and unbuckling their child from their seat at their home stop (if child is less than 40 pounds and 57 inches in height), if a seatbelt is available. Bus drivers cannot leave their seats.
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School staff will unbuckle and buckle children at the 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 later this summer. In the meantime, [click here](#) for more information.

**Register Today for the *First Ride Program!***

Our service providers will host one-hour workshops this summer to educate children about school bus safety on and around the vehicle. Families should register as soon as possible, as limited spots are available!

Families can choose either a **3:15 p.m.**, **4:30 p.m.** or **6:00 p.m.** workshop start time on the following date:

<b>2023 Date</b>	<b>First Ride Program Location</b>
August 22	<a href="#">HRCE Central Office (33 Spectacle Lake Drive)</a>

Please contact us to reserve your preferred date/location at [transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:transportation@hrce.ca) or by calling 902-431-4723.

We are available year-round to support families. Updates will also be posted to our website throughout the summer at [hrce.ca/transportation](http://hrce.ca/transportation).

For more frequently-asked questions about transportation, please [click here](#).

Wishing your family a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

HRCE Student Transportation Team