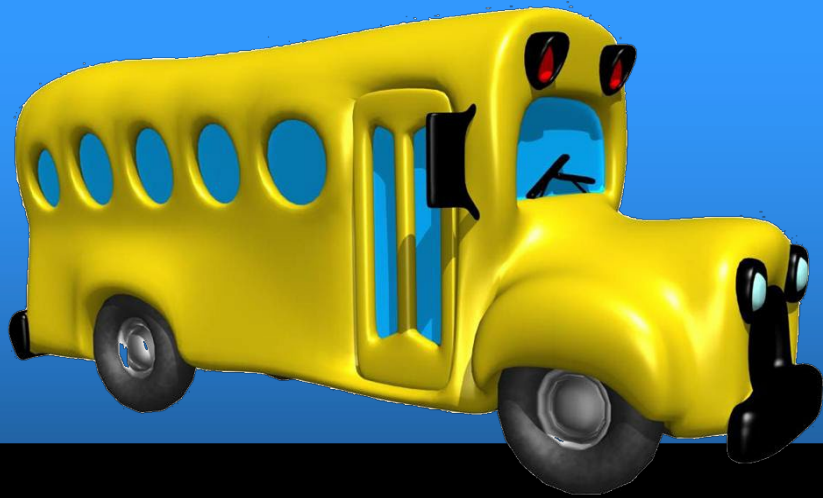




# Your Journey to Safety

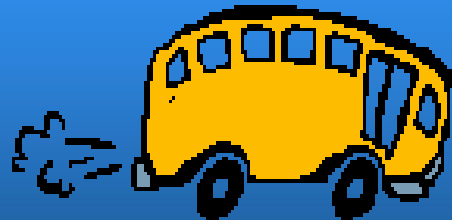




# Welcome to the “First Ride” Program

- On an average school day in Alberta, over 245,000 students are transported by school buses

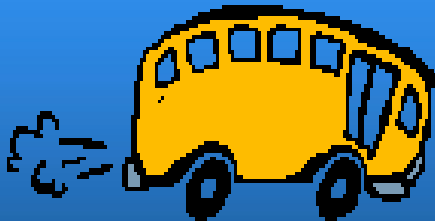
245,000+





# Welcome to the “First Ride” Program

- Daily routes to and from school total 363,000 kilometers
  - that's 9 times around the Earth



9 x





# Welcome to “First Ride”

- “First Ride” developed to encourage safety on and around the School Bus
- This program can only be effective with a “Team Effort”
- Team Members are:  
Parents/Responsible Caregiver, Schools,  
School Boards, Bus Companies, Students





# Our Expectations of Parents

- Respect rules of bus driver
- Do not discuss issues or concerns with driver, instead contact or phone bus company, school, or school board staff
- Parents are not allowed to board school bus





# Our Expectations of Parents

- Parents must know bus route letter or number, and name of school their child attends
- Driver's primary concern is the safe transportation of all children, please support the driver in student management issues





# Parent Route Request or Enquiries

- Drivers are not permitted to make route changes





# School Board Responsibilities

- Ensuring communication between bus company, school, and parents







# Bus Company Responsibilities

- To provide:
  - Safe and reliable transportation
  - Well trained staff
  - Support for Student Safety Programs  
i.e. Safety vests, evacuation drills





# School Bus Rules

- Pick up your handout
- Please review school bus rules with your children





# Bus Drivers

## DO NOT

- Use cell phones while working
- Make unauthorized stops
- Allow parents or other unauthorized persons to board the bus





# Safety Zone

- Area specified by driver where students are to wait before loading and after unloading





# Danger Zone

- 1 meter surrounding bus on all sides
- If students can touch the bus they are TOO CLOSE





# Route Information

- When referring to your child's bus route know the:
  - School & bus company number
  - Route Letter or number
  - Stop location and time
- Signs are posted on the bus





# Student Responsibility Loading...

- Be sure a responsible person has you ready to board the bus 5 minutes before scheduled pick up time
- Wait in the "Safety Zone"





# Student Responsibility

## Loading continued...

- When bus has stopped and door is opened walk (Don't run) to the bus
- Hold handrail while boarding







# Student Responsibility Once on the Bus...

- Go directly to your seat
- Once load counts are confirmed, seat will be assigned by driver





# Student Responsibility While Riding on Bus...

- Keep all body parts inside bus
- Show respect for everyone on the bus
- Follow "School Bus Safety Rules"
- Obey the bus driver
  - Driver's primary concern is 'Operating Bus Safely'





# Student Responsibility While Riding on Bus...

- Remain seated at all times
- Sit facing front of the bus
- Speak in a library voice





# Student Responsibility - Unloading...

- Remain seated until bus comes to a complete stop
- No pushing or shoving
- When bus has stopped and door has opened, walk (Don't Run) to front of bus
- Hold handrail when exiting





# Student Responsibility - Unloading...

- Once off the bus, go to “Safety Zone” and wait until bus pulls away
  - This allows clear visibility of students by other motorists





# In the Event of a Late Bus

- Students can not be left at the stop alone
- Have a plan if you cannot pick up your children and share it with your family or other care givers, the school, and the driver.





# In the Event of a Late Bus

- If there is no obvious reason for delay and you have waited 15 minutes or more, contact the school or School Board office





# Possible Causes for Delays

- Weather & road conditions
- Road construction/Repairs
- Traffic Delays
- Dual routing delays
- Driver absenteeism
- Mechanical problems

**Please check the website**  
**[www.wrps.ab.ca](http://www.wrps.ab.ca)**  
**for information on bus**  
**delays**







# Dressing for the Trip

- Ensure your child is dressed for weather conditions
- Ensure your child's clothing is safe
  - light colors are more visible
- Remember: Clothing your child likes may not always be safest





# Missing Caregiver - 1

- All buses are equipped with cell phones
- Child should have contact phone numbers & address in their backpack or jacket
- Bus company will attempt to contact parent or guardian while driver completes route





# Missing Caregiver - 2

- In extreme situations, where carrier is unable to contact school or parent, student may be turned over to care of the RCMP
- Please Note: Repeat occurrences could result in loss of bussing privileges





# Missing Student

- Bus arrives at stop and caregiver informs driver student is missing
- Driver contacts “Dispatch”
- Dispatch calls school – at this point, between school and bus company, student is located
- Often a spouse/partner already picked up at school





# Missing Student

- Student may have boarded wrong bus or is still at school
  - NOT all schools take attendance, check with your school to determine current protocol
- After all possibilities have been exhausted by responsible person, school and bus company:  
**PARENTS SHOULD PHONE POLICE**





# Missing Items

- Bus companies are not responsible for items left on bus
- Check with driver on following trip
- Lost & Found items are normally returned to school, not to bus company





# Non-transportable Items

- For student safety and allergy reasons, some items are not transported according to Alberta Department of Transportation and Utilities:

- Animals
- Unsecured Items



i.e. Large school projects, band instruments, skateboards, hockey sticks, etc.

For a complete list of restricted items on all school buses refer to the School Board Transportation Office website and Administrative Regulation Policy AR6096





# In Closing

- We're all part of the same Team:
  - Parents/Responsible Person
  - Schools
  - School Boards
  - Bus Companies
  - Students
- The Team's main goal is "Student Safety"

