



Transportation for Students

The Louis Riel School Division transports nearly 4,000 students from urban and rural neighbourhoods to our community of schools. Safe and efficient student transportation is an outcome of respectful partnerships between students, staff, and caregivers. We are all responsible to promote transportation procedures based on care, caution, and consideration for others. This document provides detailed information to assist caregivers and students to understand and support our safety procedures.



DIVISION SCOLAIRE

LOUIS RIEL

SCHOOL DIVISION

How Can Parents Help to Ensure School Bus Safety?

Safe school bus ridership starts at home. Parents and guardians who accompany children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 to and from their neighbourhood bus stops help to reduce the risk of school-bus-related accidents.

- Commit to your children (K to 3) that you or another responsible adult will accompany them daily to and from the school bus. Please note that **all students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who ride the bus must be met and accompanied by parents/guardians.**
- Practice looking left, right, and left again with your children before crossing all intersections and driveways.
- Talk to your children regularly about school bus danger zones.
- Help your children to be easily seen by dressing them in bright-coloured clothing and attaching retro-reflective material to their backpacks.
- Shorten or remove drawstrings that exceed a length of six inches or tie them to prevent clothing from snagging on the bus.
- Close backpacks securely to prevent items from dropping near or under a bus—avoid carrying loose items.
- Remind your children regularly not to pick up anything near or under a bus (or any vehicle). If something falls under the bus, children should leave it, step away from the bus, and ask the driver for assistance.
- Have your children leave home in time to avoid last-minute “dashes” that cause accidents, especially during inclement weather.
- Provide any special requests in advance and in writing through the school office.
- Children can forget pedestrian safety when they see their caregivers. Wait for your children on the same side of the street as the bus stop. Do not make your children cross the street to you.
- Support safe and respectful school bus behaviour. Teach your children that the bus driver is the leader of the school bus safety team. Work with the school and driver if behaviour problems arise.

A Student's Day on the Bus

Bus Stops

The Transportation Department assigns students to specific bus stops. Please ensure that your children are familiar with the correct bus stop location prior to their first trip. The route number is posted beside the door on the loading side of the bus.

Arrival at Pick-Up Point

Ideally, you and your children arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before pick up. Drivers have been instructed not to board students who arrive after the bus door has closed to ensure that students clearly understand the risks of approaching a moving school bus.

Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk along the left shoulder of the road to face oncoming traffic. Cross only at intersections.

Wait for the bus in a safe place away from the street, at least three metres (10 feet) from the curb. Be sure there is space between you and the passing cars and encourage children to stand quietly while they wait. All students waiting at the stop should line up without pushing, respect private property en route, and avoid snow banks.

Boarding the Bus

Line up in single file in front of the bus door, at least two metres from the curb. Wait until the driver stops the bus and opens the door before approaching the bus. To ensure the bus completes its route on time, only students may board the bus. Exceptions are made in certain situations for students with a personalized transportation plan.

If there is a school bus patrol, wait until the patrol takes their position beside the door before approaching the bus. Wait your turn, stay in line and quickly board the bus in single file without crowding or pushing. Always use the handrail and watch your step.

A seating plan applies at all times. The bus driver will inform students of their seat assignments on the first day of school, and has the authority to reassign seating.

Conduct on the Bus

Follow the driver's directions and safety procedures. Behaviour that distracts the driver risks the safety of all passengers.

When you have boarded the bus, go directly to your assigned seat and sit down immediately. For safety, sit well into the back of the seat. Keep your backpack on your lap or under the seat and musical instruments under the seat. Laws require the aisle to be clear at all times. When you travel on a bus, talk quietly with students near you. When the bus approaches a railroad crossing, the driver asks students to be silent.

Never extend your hands, arms, head, or feet out of the windows. Do not touch the emergency door or exits or any part of the bus equipment. Do not eat on the school bus to prevent choking if sudden stops must occur. Keep your school bus tidy and use the garbage can when necessary.

Carry-On Items on the Bus

All carry-on items (including musical instruments) must fit inside a standard school bag or backpack no larger than 60 cm x 30 cm x 10 cm (2 ft x 1 ft x 8 in) in dimension. (See [Guideline for Transporting Musical Instruments on School Buses](#).) Students should place their school bags below their seats to respect others' personal space.

Restricted Items

The following items are not allowed on the school bus:

- science fair backboards
- hockey sticks
- curling brooms
- skis/snow boards
- skateboards
- toboggans
- specific musical instruments - contra bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, tuba, bass trombone
- other large items

Because some musical instruments (above) are not permitted on school buses, Music teachers consider this factor when assigning instruments to transported students. All permitted musical

instruments should be stored in their proper cases and placed in the student's backpack or stowed safely under the seat.

Skates will be allowed on the bus if their blades are enclosed in proper skate guards and stored in a bag. All sport balls must be carried in bags.

Disembarking

Remain seated until the bus reaches its destination and comes to a complete stop. Let classmates at the front of the bus depart first and always use the handrail. A supervisor will greet you when you arrive at the school.

Walking Away from the Bus

If you are not crossing the street, step directly away from the bus. Never walk beside the bus.

Crossing the Street

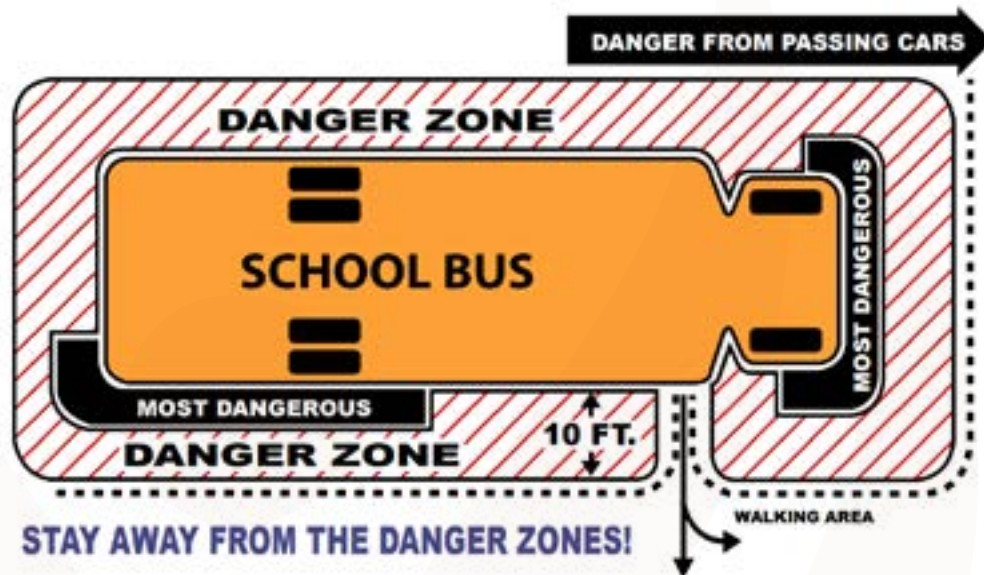
Wait at the curb, at least three metres in front of the bus so the driver can always see you. Always cross the road in front of the bus and at right angles to it, not diagonally. If no school bus patrol is present, wait for the driver's instructions before crossing.

When school bus patrols are available, wait until the patrol signals you before crossing. The patrol will walk part-way into the street, communicate with the driver, check traffic in both directions, and signal when crossing is safe by extending the flag and dropping their left arm. When you see this signal, you may leave your curb side position to cross the street.

When proceeding onto the roadway, always look left, right, and left again. Walk promptly across the road.

STUDENTS: If something falls under or in front of the bus, leave it, step away from the bus, and ask the driver for assistance.

CAREGIVERS: Children can forget pedestrian safety when they see you. Wait for your children on the same side of the street as the bus stop. When accompanying your children, support our safety team by waiting for and following all driver and bus patrol instructions.



Expectations for Student Behaviour

Proactive Student Discipline

The Louis Riel School Division encourages positive student behaviour to emphasize student responsibility, self-discipline, and respect for others. The division is responsible to address inappropriate or disruptive behaviour. Students who ride the bus are subject to rules and regulations designed to provide safe transportation to and from school. Please emphasize to your children that their driver is the “leader” of the school bus safety team.

Expectations for Students

- Follow all directions and safety procedures.
- Stay in your seat, sit properly, and keep hands and feet to yourself.
- Speak in low tones and act respectfully.
- Refrain from eating or drinking on the bus.
- Keep the bus free of litter, graffiti, and other damage.

We can meet behaviour expectations by

- Demonstrating respect for the rights, roles, and responsibilities of others.
- Demonstrating respect for personal and public property.
- Demonstrating respect for people in authority.
- Supporting guidelines, policies, and protocols for interventions when disciplinary action is deemed necessary.

Interventions to Guide Behaviour

Interventions, including disciplinary responses, strive to preserve the dignity and self-worth of all involved in the response. Occasionally, students require interventions for behaviours that inhibit a safe and pleasant ride on the bus. The interventions listed below are not all-inclusive—others may be considered depending on the circumstances—and may be implemented in a sequence that differs from how they are listed.

Dependent on the gravity of an incident, the division may forego warnings and implement an immediate bus suspension. The length of a suspension is determined by the specific nature of an incident. Consequences may include withdrawal of bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

The following process occurs with few variations:

- The driver will speak to the student and forward a report to the Principal.
- The driver will forward a report to the Principal for follow up with the student and caregiver.
- The report is forwarded to the Principal for investigation. Upon confirmation, the Principal may remove school bus ridership privileges for up to five (5) days with a verbal and written confirmation to the caregiver.
- The report is forwarded to the Principal for investigation. Upon confirmation, the Principal may remove school bus ridership privileges for up to 10 days with a verbal and written confirmation to the caregiver.
- The report is forwarded to the Principal for investigation. Upon consultation with divisional administration, the Principal may remove school bus ridership privileges for an extended period which may include the balance of the school year, with a verbal and written confirmation to the caregiver.
- If a serious infraction occurs while the bus is on the school grounds, the driver may ask a student to report to the school office immediately for pick up by the caregiver that day, but cannot provide advance notice.

Other Important Information

Special Requests, Friends, Special Stops

The division is unable to accommodate transportation requests for friends or guests on school buses. Temporary transportation arrangements may be considered for students who already qualify for busing if the special request is:

- for the same bus route

- for a drop at a pre-existing stop on their route
- for a single occasion

Please submit a written request to the office before the date of the alternate arrangement. Clearly state the date and stop location. The school office must authorize the note before the student presents it to the driver.

Drivers may not accept any unauthorized notes or change their stops or routes. To ensure student safety:

- Students presenting unauthorized notes to the driver before a bus departure will have to report back to their school office.
- Students presenting unauthorized notes to the driver during a bus run will be returned to their school at the end of the bus route. The school will be contacted.

Procedures During Extreme Weather Conditions Per Policy EEAEAA

The Superintendent of Schools & CEO will make any decision to close schools and/or cancel transportation, in consultation with the Manager of Transportation.

An announcement will be posted on the [LRSD website](#) and on Bluesky ([@transportlrds.bsky.social](#)) by 7:00 a.m. The decision will also be communicated to the following media: CBC 990 AM & CJOB 680 AM.

Caregivers and staff may also consult local media for announcements about school closing and/or cancellation of transportation.

If closing schools or busing students home early during the school day is necessary, the Superintendent's Department will contact schools.

If bus transportation is cancelled in the morning, the cancellation applies for the entire day.

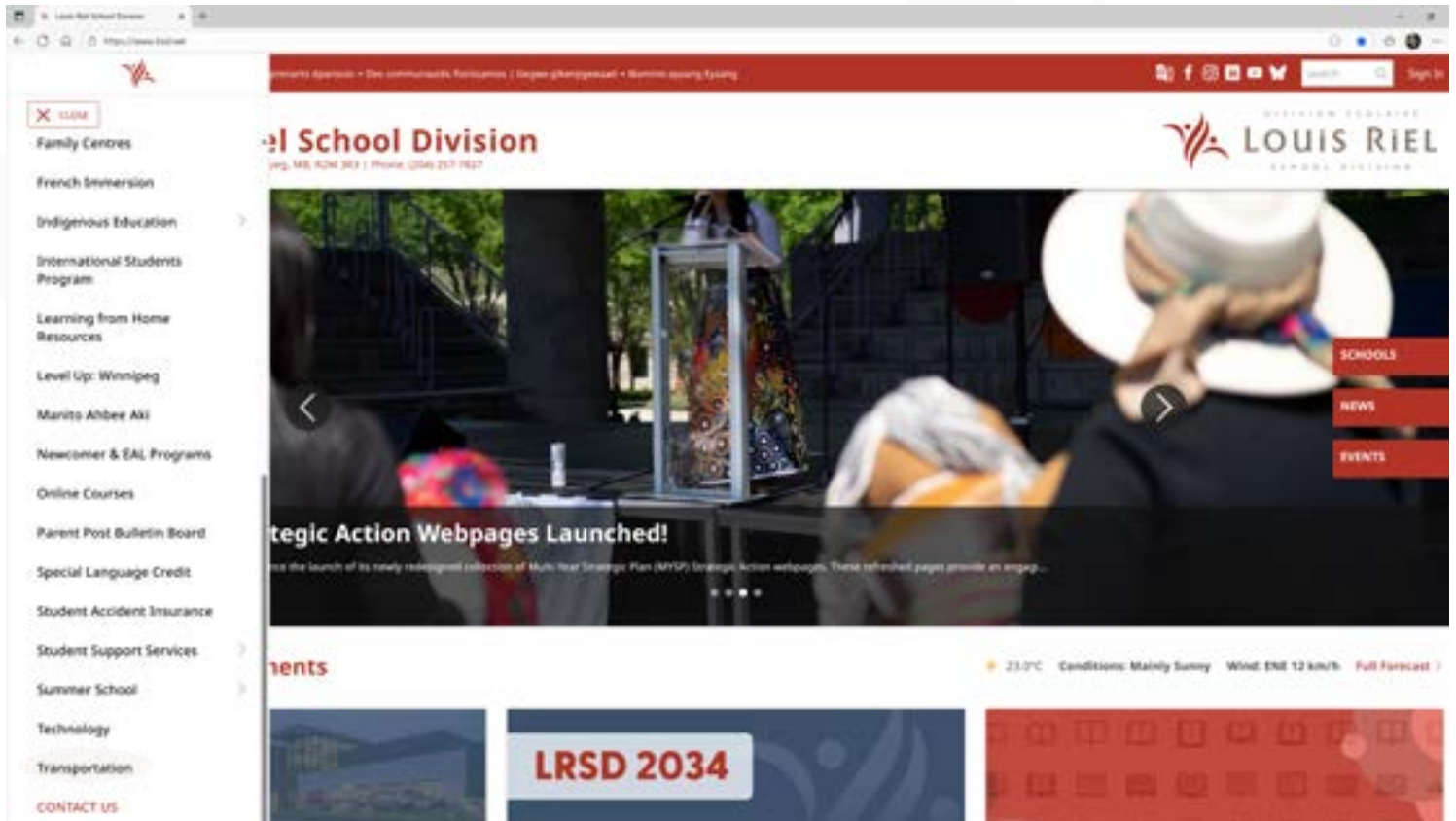
Extreme Wind Chill

Severe weather can affect the safe operation of school buses. The LRSD Transportation Department monitors wind chill at 6:00 a.m. using Environment Canada weather readings from **The Forks**. At that time, if the air temperature is -35°C or colder or the wind chill is -45 or colder, the Superintendent will cancel school bus transportation.

If you have any questions about transportation in your area, please call the Transportation Department at 204-253-2681 or your school Principal. We would be pleased to assist you.

Find Us on the Website

Menu > What We Offer > Transportation



Policy References for Added Information

The following policies are available at www.lrsd.net:

EEA-1

Transportation of Students

EEA-2

Student Transportation: Students in a Joint Custody Agreement

EEAE

Bus Transportation of Students: Safety Procedures to Prepare for Field Trips

EEAE EA

Student Transportation: Weather-Related Cancellation of School Buses

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Supporting Student Behaviour



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