

2014-2015 School Bus Registration and Payment Information

Registration begins May 26, 2014

To guarantee routes and available seating, early registration is encouraged

Registration along with payment is due by the first day of school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Although transportation to and from school is a parental responsibility and bus transportation is an optional service, the Saanich School Board remains committed to providing school bus service. The cost of our current bus service is \$1.32 million with funding from Government covering only \$1.0 million of this cost. In 2002 a Transportation Advisory Committee was formed to provide recommendations to the Board on how to save busing costs. The result of the Committee's work was a recommendation that school bus transportation be retained and that the over-expenditure be funded by a user fee for all riders. As busing is an optional service, Boards are legally permitted to charge this fee.

On April 30, 2014 the Saanich Board of Education adopted a budget that includes an increase in bus fees to help offset the transportation costs that continue to escalate. **The monthly bus fee has been increased to \$30 per month.** The \$30 student transportation fee is reduced to \$15 per month for the 3rd and 4th child in a family.

By registering your child for school bus transportation, you reserve a place within the legal capacity of the bus so that your child is able to ride whenever he or she needs to. For this reason, all students registered for the bus will be subject to the same fee regardless of how often during the month the child uses the service, or if they only need to ride one-way. The Board has heard from some parents who would like to have their child's friend ride the bus home with them occasionally and this will be permitted when possible within the legal capacity of the bus. Students will require a one-time bus pass available at the school office. There may be instances when students withdraw from a school during the year or for some reason may no longer require bus service. A refund policy, based on the same principle of reserving a spot for the student within the legal capacity of the bus, will allow for refunds on full months of service not used up in the school year.

Your early registration assists the District in planning the most effective bus routes while increasing the possibility for a bus route to be in your area. Please complete the registration form (available on our website) and return to the School Board Office or to your school.

SD63 Transportation Bus Cards (different from student cards) will be handed out in September to middle and secondary bus riders for whom we have received payment. Post-dated cheques are accepted.

To assist in your decision regarding whether your child will ride the bus this September, please refer to the current bus routes which are posted on the District website (www.sd63.bc.ca). For more information on bus routes please call the Transportation Department at 652-7343.

Yours truly,



Barry Bodner
Director of Facilities
School District #63 (Saanich)