



Kindergarten Transportation Information 2021-2022

In order to secure a seat for your child from the first day of school, it is important that you ensure an accurate home or daycare address is in the school's information system prior to July. Routes will be run with all stops as planned from the first day of school, regardless of intermittent Kindergarten start up schedule.

2021- 2022 Student Transportation Information

Parents may access transportation information for their child as of mid-August using the Parent Portal on www.ottawaschoolbus.ca, or by clicking **Bus Stop Finder**. Eligibility will be identified as "walker" or will provide information about yellow bus or van service.

Students riding on vans will be contacted by the driver and will be provided a booster or car seat, if required.

We strongly encourage parents/guardians to sign up for email notification. This service provides delay information for your child's route as well as other important service notices like snow day service cancellations.

Meeting Kindergarten Students at Bus Stop:

To ensure the safety of transported Kindergarten students, school bus drivers shall not drop off these students unless the parent/guardian or the designated alternate responsible individual identified by the parent/guardian is present at the stop location to accompany the student home.

If there is no one at the stop to receive your Kindergarten student, they may be transported back to the school to be picked up by the parent/guardian or may be dropped off at the local police station. Failure to receive your Kindergarten child at the stop may result in termination of transportation services.

OSTA will be providing bright yellow plastic tags for each Kindergarten student. Schools will attach these tags to any Kindergarten student's backpack (preferably on the lower left side) that is assigned to motorized transportation services. These bands will assist the driver in making sure a responsible person is at the stop to collect the student at their drop off point, per policy.

Bus Stop Location and Parent/Guardian Responsibility

- **Your child's bus stop will not necessarily be at your door.**
- Kindergarten students can be expected to walk up to 500 meters to their bus stop and must be accompanied by a responsible adult on their walk.
- Arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time
- Dress properly for the weather

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

- Ensuring a parent or guardian is available to receive the kindergarten student at drop off
- Accompanying student(s) on their way to the stop location;
- Ensuring the safety and security of student(s) while waiting at the stop location
- Assisting student(s) when getting on and off of a school bus or into or out of a small vehicle, including restraints if applicable;
- Ensuring the safety and security of student(s) after getting off the bus at the drop-off location when returning from school; and
- Providing adequate access/supervision to the student(s) at home and/or caregiver as specified by the parent/guardian.

COVID Safety Measures

- Students in Kindergarten are recommended to wear a mask
- All vehicles are deep-cleaned twice a day
- Seating plans, produced by the school, ensure family bubbles and classroom cohorts are maintained, to the extent possible

Other information is available at

<http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/return-to-school-transportation-information/>

School Bus and Pedestrian Safety Day (First Time Rider Program):

OSTA will conduct an online safety program for first-time school bus riders, and young pedestrians the week prior to school start-up. If you are interested in having your child(ren) attend this important program, please check our website in early July for program date and registration information at www.ottawaschoolbus.ca. All students are welcome to attend.

If you cannot attend a School Bus and Pedestrian Safety session, please take some time to review the school bus safety brochure and video with your child.

Repetition of school bus safety rules during the first two weeks of school ensures your child, and others, will be safe during their trip to and from school.

[Kindergarten - School Bus Safety with Buzzy the Bee](#)
[School Bus Safety - A Message to Parents](#)
[School Bus Safety for Students](#)
[Spread Kindness Not Germs](#)

Transportation to Two Homes

Students who are in a **joint custody arrangement and require transportation to two homes** may apply for transportation to an alternate home/daycare location based on the parties' access schedule. All eligibility rules apply to the second address. **Deadline for September 2021 seating is JUNE 1, 2021.** All documents are available at:

<http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/policies-procedures/variable-transportation-for-students-in-a-joint-custody-arrangement-and-having-two-homes-copy/>

Transportation Changes

For transportation questions or changes to a student's address or caregiver information during **July** or **August**, please contact OSTA directly.

For transportation changes in **September** (and beyond), please advise the school directly. Please note that any changes made during the school year will require a minimum of 3 business days to implement.

Thanks for helping us keep all students safe!

Transportation Preparation Checklist

For All Students

 To Do List
Make sure our new home or daycare address is in the school's data system
If applicable, complete form for transportation to two homes by June 1, 2021
Sign up for email notification on the Parent Portal, or follow OSTA @Ottbus
Check the Parent Portal for transportation details after August 20, 2021
Watch video " <i>Spread Kindness Not Germs</i> "

In the Bus Zone

 To Do List
Arrange to have the same person meet my KG child at the stop every day, and let the school know who it will be
If my child has a life-threatening medical condition, let the school know where emergency response equipment will be during transportation
Participate in School Bus and Pedestrian Safety sessions the last week of August
Review school bus safety video and brochure with my child