



Providing a safe and efficient transportation system for the four School Boards in the Greater Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin areas.



SUDBURY STUDENT SERVICES CONSORTIUM

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT:

- INCLEMENT WEATHER
- VIDEO CAMERAS

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INCLEMENT WEATHER

During severe storms, when most parents and students are still asleep, transportation services and bus companies are observing and predicting weather conditions. The decision to cancel school transportation services must be reported to the public by 7 a.m.

This decision involves a number of people and is never taken lightly. Bus drivers, school bus operators and safety officers are on the roads as early as 5 a.m. in order to report road conditions to the Sudbury Student Services Consortium by 5:45 a.m. The Consortium also reviews Environment Canada's Weather Warnings and makes a number of phone calls to determine road conditions in different areas (i.e. Ministry of Transportation, Municipal officials, Directors of Public Works).

Once bus companies report their findings to the Consortium, a variety of other factors are taken into consideration:

✓ Road Conditions

Sometimes buses are on the roads before sanding and snow removal crews have finished their work.

✓ Snow and Ice Accumulations

Inclines, bridges and ramps can also pose as a danger.

✓ Weather Conditions in Specific Areas

It is possible that some areas may not be affected by bad weather. However, outlying area secondary school bus runs are also used to transport elementary students from different areas. As a result, cancellation of transportation services may be unavoidable.

Once the transportation decision is made, the Consortium communicates by conference calls with the 4 School Boards before 6:30 a.m. in order to decide whether schools will remain open. The Consortium then relays this information to bus operators, the communication departments at the respective school boards, the media and the weather network. Finally, the message is posted on the Sudbury Student Services Consortium

Inclement Weather

During extreme cold weather or severe storms, it is important that parents/guardians remind their children of possible bus breakdowns or delays. Please tell them how long they should remain at the bus stop before they return home or to a safe location. Parents/guardians should have a back up plan at all times.

If inclement weather prevents bus drivers from completing their morning routes, parents/guardians who choose to transport their children to school must pick them up at the end of the school day.

It is ultimately parents/guardians who decide whether to send their children to the bus stop or to school during inclement weather.

Children need to be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the scheduled time. Buses will not return to pick up children who are late.

At times, a driver might not be able to pick up students at a stop, if, due to fog, it is impossible for him to give a signal plainly visible of his intention to stop or if his vehicle is not clearly visible for at least 125 metres.

In inclement weather, please do not call bus companies or Transportation Services. The telephone lines must be kept clear to transmit information about road conditions, road closures, accidents and safety concerns.

Listen to the radio or visit www.sssc.ca to find out if transportation is cancelled and /or schools are closed. Radio announcements will begin by 7 a.m. Please note: "Transportation" includes, buses, mini vans and taxis that transport students to and from school.

Reminders

Changes to your children's residence, transportation address, caregiver's information and emergency contact information must be reported to the Transportation Services.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide transportation for temporary changes (e.g. going to friend's home, parents/sitter going on vacation, school projects, medical appointments, etc).

Is bus running?

Visit our web site for:

- ➔ Transportation Policy
- ➔ Procedures
 - Epi-Pen
 - Operational procedures
 - Bus regulations
 - Car seats & booster seats
 - Dealing with accidents/incidents
 - Embarkation/Discharge of young pupils
 - Bus patrol duties
- ➔ Safety Programs
 - First Time Bus Rider
 - Buster the Bus
 - SOARS
 - Survivor
- ➔ Operators and Staff information and much more...

What's NEW at www.sssc.ca?



Video Cameras

Video camera surveillance systems may be used on school buses.

The Transportation Policies of school boards represented by Sudbury Student Services Consortium provide for the use of video cameras on school buses where discipline problems are being experienced.

Video surveillance on school buses promotes the safety of pupils. In the event of a reported or observed incident, recorded information may be reviewed to assist in the investigation.

Video surveillance records are under the Consortium's control and are subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Video Cameras