

# On the Bus



## Student Transportation

### Services of Thunder Bay

#### NEWSLETTER



## CHANGES TO BUSING NEXT YEAR

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Bus Status app



Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB) administers transportation for students between home and school under a joint transportation agreement between the Lakehead District School board, Thunder Bay Catholic School Board, Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales, and Conseil scolaire du Grand Nord. As announced in February 2024, eligibility distances for most grades at all the school boards we service are changing effective for the 2024-2025 school year as a result of a new Ministry of Education funding formula.

As of September 1, 2024, the student transportation eligibility distances between home and school will be as follows:

### Transportation Eligibility Distances

- JK & SK: minimum 800 metres
- Grades 1 - 8: minimum 1600 metres
- Grades 9-12: minimum 3200 metres

Students eligible for transportation in urban or developed rural areas may also be required to walk to and from centralized school bus stops within the following distances based on their grade with elementary stop locations often based on the address of eligible younger students whenever possible:

### Walk to Stop Distances

- JK & SK: maximum 400 metres
- Grades 1 - 8: maximum 800 metres
- Grades 9-12: maximum 1600 metres

Exceptions to distance policies will be in effect for students with special

transportation needs, rural students who must walk along highways and ditches and urban students who must cross highways or do not have access to controlled crossings along multi-lane arterial roads.

All students, including ineligible siblings of younger eligible riders, who are not eligible for transportation next year will be removed from busing for September. Requests for Courtesy Transportation will open at the end of September.

Parents and students can confirm eligibility for transportation next year by selecting the eligibility tile at [www.ststb.ca](http://www.ststb.ca) (note: the School Year selection at the bottom of the 'Can I Ride a Bus?' inquiry page must be set to 2024-2025)

Other changes for next year include bus company route assignments and route names.

First Student Canada and Iron Range Bus Lines remain as our service providers, however due to the results of a recent contract bidding process, the areas and schools that these companies service may change next year.

As most bus routes are being reconfigured to conform to the new realities of transportation funding, the current 'North' and 'South' designations will change to FS or IR to denote which operator is servicing the route followed by a three digit route code. This is being done to limit confusing our new routing with old routes names.

# YOUR BUSING INFO IS ONLINE

**2024-2025 BUSING INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PARENT PORTAL STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 24, 2024**

The safe and confidential STSTB Parent Portal is an efficient tool to obtain your student's transportation information and can be accessed easily and conveniently at [www.ststb.ca](http://www.ststb.ca). First time users of the Parent Portal are required to set up an account and, once created, students can be added to the account to view their busing info.

To add a student, you will be asked for their Ontario Education Number (OEN), and date of birth, as well as school attending and grade for the school year indicated in the School Year field at the bottom of the screen). As an OEN may not have been assigned yet for next year's JK students, incoming JK student's busing info can still be accessed using their Student ID in the OEN field.

- Go to [www.ststb.ca](http://www.ststb.ca) and click the 'Parent Portal' tile.
- On the Parent Portal landing page, select

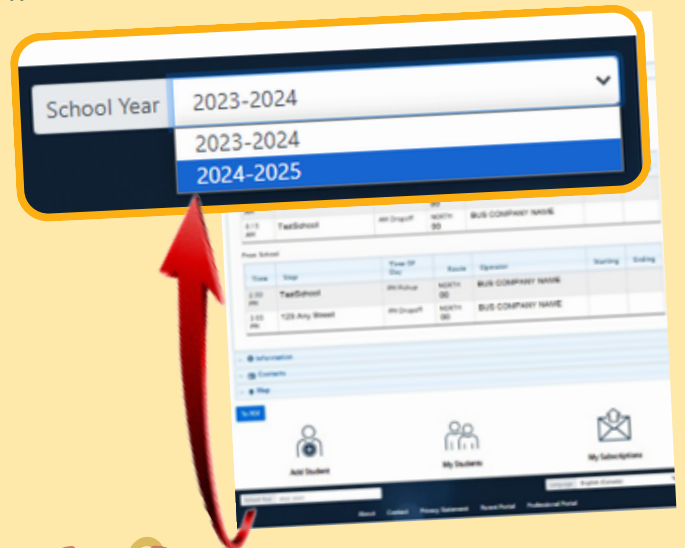
**PROCEED TO PARENT PORTAL**

at the bottom of the page to proceed to the Log In page

Instructions for first time users of the Parent Portal on setting up an account and adding students can be found on the Parent Portal landing page.

## Viewing Next Year's Busing Before the End of the Current Year

For each child that you've added to your Parent Portal account, toggle between the current and next year's busing info by selecting the desired school year at the bottom left of each student's busing information page.



## Upcoming Events

The 31st Annual First Rider Program will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, for all students entering JK this September! More info at [www.ststb.ca/en/safety/first-rider](http://www.ststb.ca/en/safety/first-rider)