

## First Time Riders Program

This program is offered the last Sunday of August each year, and is held at various locations around the tri-cities. This program is for all JK and SK students who will be riding the bus to school in September. Children and their parents/guardians will receive a free bus ride to help familiarize children with the bus and make it easier and more comfortable for them to ride the bus to school.

If your child is eligible for transportation, you will receive a flyer at the beginning of August with information on how to register for this program.



### Tips for Parents

- ◆ Assist your child in organizing and securing belongings before leaving home
- ◆ Remove all long drawstrings and toggles from outer clothing to prevent these from being caught in handrails and doors
- ◆ Ensure your child's safety while getting to and from the bus stop
- ◆ Be at the pick up and drop off points each day or arrange for a responsible adult to be there
- ◆ Support the enforcement of school bus safety rules and procedures

### Questions? Please visit our STSWR Website

Should you have any questions regarding our services, please visit us online at:

[www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca).

There is a Kindergarten Tab that has been made available to you.

Other information on our site includes:

- ◆ STSWR, WCDSB and WRDSB policies and procedures
- ◆ Tool to determine your child's eligibility to ride
- ◆ Information about STSWR safety programs
- ◆ Subscription instructions for delays and cancellations



### Subscriptions for Delays and Cancellations

Receive alerts regarding delays and cancellations to your email address! To enroll please visit us online at [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca) and **click on the Parents Tab** for instructions. By subscribing to this service parents are made aware of late buses and cancellations due to inclement weather.



**\*\*Please arrive at your bus stop 5 minutes ahead of the scheduled pick up time to avoid missing the bus.\*\***

130-4275 King St E  
Kitchener, ON

Phone: 519-650-4934  
Fax: 519-650-2979

## Student Transportation Services of Waterloo

*Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region plans, implements, communicates, and monitors the safe transportation of approximately 30,000 WRDSB and WCDSB students daily.*

## Kindergarten Riders



Tel: 519-650-4934

[www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)

# Kindergarten Safety

## Kindergarten Bus Tags

All Kindergarten students taking the bus home from school will have a “kindie” tag. Your school will issue a kindie tag to your child at the beginning of the school year.

This tag includes all pertinent information regarding your child’s transportation and helps the driver ensure kindergarten students are getting off the bus at the correct location.

Lost tags should be replaced as soon as possible and new ones should be made when your info changes. Please contact your school should you lose or need a change made to your tag.

## Do Not Ride Form

The purpose of this form is to prevent children from being put on the bus when they are not supposed to be. It is also to notify your child’s school and STSWR that your child, although eligible for transportation, will not be taking the bus to/from school. This form can be found on our website ([www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)) under the Forms Tab and should be submitted to the school.

Please note, you can reverse this change at any time throughout the school year by contacting your child’s school.



## Arrival at the Stop AM/PM

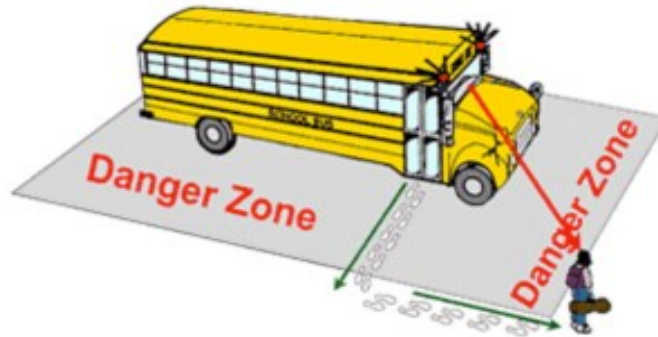
- ◆ Students should be at their assigned bus stop at least 5 minutes before their pick up time as times can fluctuate due to traffic
- ◆ Try to have alternate arrangements in place should your child miss the bus
- ◆ Kindergarten students **MUST BE MET** by a parent or caregiver or appropriately aged older sibling
- ◆ Parents are expected to approach the door to the bus in the PM to collect their child by name
- ◆ Please check our website ([www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)) or subscribe to receive notifications of your bus delays and cancellations

## Safe Riding Procedures

### At the Bus Stop

#### Students Must:

- ◆ Wait in an orderly fashion well back from the side of the road
- ◆ Respect the private property at the bus stop
- ◆ Recognize that a **danger zone** exists in the immediate vicinity of school buses
- ◆ If children need to cross the road to board the bus, wait until the bus arrives with lights flashing, continue to wait for the driver to signal that it’s safe to cross, then safely proceed across the road



### Getting On/Off the Bus

#### Students Must:

- ◆ Secure and organize belongings before getting on and off the bus
- ◆ Wait until the bus is completely stopped before approaching the door
- ◆ Enter or exit the bus in single file
- ◆ Never push or shove
- ◆ Get on and off the bus only at their designated stop
- ◆ Stay out of the **danger zone**: if you can touch the bus, you’re too close—use 10 giant steps to take you out of the **danger zone** and make sure you and the bus driver can see each other
- ◆ When required to cross the road, establish full eye contact with the driver, wait for the driver to signal, check traffic in both directions, then cross the road in front of the school bus
- ◆ Never stop to pick up anything that you may have dropped in the **danger zone**—ask an adult or the bus driver for help
- ◆ Walk, never run across the road

### Riding The School Bus

#### Kindergarten Students are expected to:

- ◆ **Sit in the first few rows of the bus**
- ◆ Remain seated, facing forward at all times
- ◆ Remain seated until ready to leave the school bus
- ◆ Keep backpacks on their lap and keep aisles clear
- ◆ Avoid distracting or disturbing the driver
- ◆ Open windows only with driver’s permission
- ◆ Keep hands, feet, arms and head inside the school bus at all times
- ◆ Never throw objects inside the school bus or out the windows
- ◆ Never eat or drink on the bus
- ◆ Promptly obey the driver’s directions (or the direction of the school safety patrol, if present)
- ◆ Use emergency equipment or exits only in the case of genuine emergency

#### New for Parents:

Parents are required to come to the bus door and ask for the child by name in order to promote safe dismissal.



### Bus Patrols

Many elementary school bus routes have safety patrollers. These students assist younger students when embarking/disembarking the bus. They provide support to the bus driver in the event of an emergency situation, and receive training each fall in sessions conducted by the Waterloo Region Police Service, Municipal Fire Departments and St John Ambulance.