



(519)744-7575
www.stswr.ca



Kindergarten Riders



REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

There is no registration for transportation. All students living in a busing zone are automatically assigned to the bus based on the address provided to the school. You can find out if you live in the busing zone or the walking zone by using the “Transportation Eligibility” portal on our website at www.stswr.ca.



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER

During the last week of August, transportation information for September is mailed directly to families of JK and SK students in the busing zone.



FIRST RIDER PROGRAM

The First Rider Program is a safety program introducing new bus zone students to the bus and how to be a safe and responsible rider. An interactive video is followed by a bus safety demonstration and a short ride on the school bus. If your Kindergarten child is in the bus zone, check www.stswr.ca for program locations and to sign up for a session.



OPTING OUT OF BUSING

If your child is in the busing zone, but does not require busing, please fill out a “Do Not Ride Form” to ensure your child is not assigned to a bus and inadvertently put on a bus at the end of the day. The form can be requested from your child’s school or our website.

You may opt out of busing altogether or morning or afternoon busing only. The form lets your school and driver know that your child will not be taking the bus in one or both directions. Please note, you can reverse this change at any time throughout the school year by using the same form.



WALKING TO SCHOOL

An average Kindergartener can walk one kilometre in ten minutes, and stamina for walking (and all day long) improves quickly with daily practice. Often, small children have a harder time sitting still than they do moving for that amount of time. In fact, 20 minutes of physical activity at the beginning of the day can boost metabolism, increase mental focus for up to four hours, and help your child sleep better at night.



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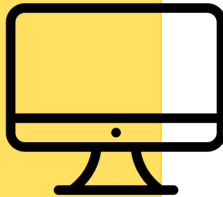


Kindergarten Walkers



WHY YOUR SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Our school boards support active transportation as the preferred method of transportation to school. The daily active commute can contribute to better focus in the classroom, greater test scores, and increased physical and mental health.



ARE YOU IN THE WALK ZONE?

Check the Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region website at www.stswr.ca to find out if your address is in the walk zone. Check the walk zone tab for information regarding support for walking students.

YOUNG WALKERS

An average Kindergartener can walk one kilometre in ten minutes, and stamina for walking (and all day long) improves quickly with daily practice. Often, small children have a harder time sitting still than they do moving for that amount of time. In fact, 20 minutes of physical activity at the beginning of the day can boost metabolism, increase mental focus for up to four hours, and help your child sleep better at night.



Parents are responsible for ensuring small children are supervised on the walk to school.



SUPERVISED WALKING GROUPS and OTHER SUPPORT

Your school may already have walking programs that increase the safety and fun of walking to school by intensifying visibility and allowing students to walk with other children. Systems like the Walking School Bus, Walking Buddies, and Trailblazers all work to foster gradual independence through age-appropriate supervision, support, and road safety education. If your school does not already have these supports, call STSWR and ask how you might help to establish one.



SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANNING

School Travel Planning works with school communities and municipal and regional stakeholders to make active transportation an easier choice for more families. To find out more or to volunteer to work on your school travel planning committee, please contact Leslie Maxwell at leslie_maxwell@stswr.ca 519.744.7575 x224.