



Transportation for Your Kindergarten Child

Starting school is a very exciting time in both a parent's and a child's life. It is also a time when there are many new things to get used to and lots of questions about how things work. We hope this information will answer some of your questions about the transportation of your child to school.

About NSTS

Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) is a consortium between the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) and the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB).

Our goal at NSTS is to provide safe, efficient and on-time transportation services, allowing your child to arrive at school ready to learn and return home safely at the end of their day. We are responsible for the safe transportation of 32,000 students daily with the help of contracted services from school bus and taxi operators.

Transportation Eligibility

DSBN and NCDSB Transportation Policies stipulate that students in Junior and Senior Kindergarten must be at least 800 metres from their home school to be eligible for transportation. Once a student's address is determined eligible for service, transportation is automatically assigned. If you do not require service, please email NSTS and we will adjust your child's record accordingly.

As students advance grade levels, the distance for eligibility increases for students attending their home school to 1,600 metres for grades 1 to 8 and 2,500 metres for students in grades 9 to 12.

Bus Stop Locations

In general, pick-up and drop-off locations are designated at central points. Central bus stops are typically located within 400 metres of a student's residence. A house bus stop may be provided if a student is not physically able to access the central bus stop.

Changes to Address Information

NSTTS automatically downloads student records from the school. If you change your address or change daycare providers, please update your child's information with your school so transportation can be arranged accordingly.

One Pick-Up and One Drop-Off Address

To ensure the safety of your child, students may only have one pick-up and one drop-off location. The pick-up location may be different from the drop-off location, but each must be consistent 5 days a week. The reason for this policy is a consistent schedule eliminates the chance of a mistake being made by one of the many people responsible for the transportation of your child.

Notification of Arrangements

By mid-August students who are eligible for transportation services will receive a letter via mail from NSTS. This letter will include instructions on how to access your child's transportation through the NSTS website. It is important to verify this information to ensure that we have assigned your child correctly to transportation; including address information and half-day or full-day programming.

We Are Open All Summer

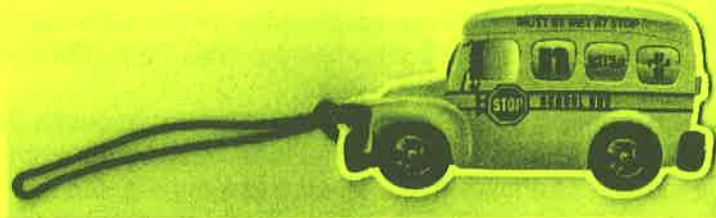
NSTS plans the transportation routes during the summer months for each school year. We are not authorized to accept address change information from a source other than the school; however, if you notify us of a change in address we will ensure that the bus stop will be ready for you when your child's information is updated when the schools re-open in late-August.

"First Rider" Program

Many children entering Kindergarten have never been on a school bus. It is important that your child learns the proper safety rules of riding a school bus from an expert: their bus driver. Together with our bus operators, we offer the "First Rider Program" to teach new students the proper way to ride a bus as well as the safety precautions needed on and off the bus. Please visit www.nsts.ca in June 2015 for more information about the dates and location of First Rider Programs. You can also ask your school Principal if they will offer this program at the school.

Must Be Met at Bus Stop

A very important safety practice we have in place to ensure student safety is that a parent/guardian must be with a Kindergarten student at the bus stop. This is mandatory while your child is in their Kindergarten years. The school will equip your Kindergarten student with a "Must be Met at Stop Tag" on the first day of school and it is a parental responsibility to ensure this tag is available and visible to the bus driver.



The bus driver is required to deliver your child directly to the person waiting for him or her. While the inside of a bus is one of the safest ways to travel, the outside of the bus has blind spots and danger zones where smaller children can be out of the driver's view. We feel that when an adult meets a child, the risk of the child not being seen is greatly reduced. An adult can also offer positive reinforcement of safety practices that can be forgotten by small children.

Inclement Weather Procedure

There may be times during the school year where it may be necessary to cancel student transportation services due to adverse weather conditions. Please familiarize yourself with this procedure and the modes of communication available to receive the latest information on student transportation cancellations and or school closures. Please note that parents or guardians make the final decision on whether or not to send their child to school during inclement weather conditions.

Contact Us

We are here to support the transition of your child to Kindergarten. Please visit our website, www.nsts.ca, for helpful information. The website includes web application where you can enter an address and school to determine if your child is eligible for transportation. Alternately, you can reach us by phone 905 346-0290 or email general@nsts.ca.



1 Getting On and Off the Bus

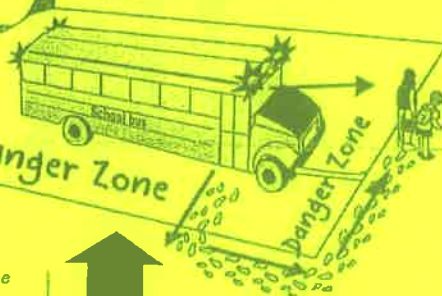
- Be at the bus stop before the bus comes.
- Wait for the bus at a safe place away from the road.
- The bus driver will tell you when to get on.
- Always use the hand rail.
- Never push or shove.
- Take two giant steps away from the bus when getting off.
- Walk, don't run away from the bus.

2 On the bus

- Sit facing the driver, feet in front of you.
- Keep hands and your head inside the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times.
- Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

DANGER ZONE →

Danger Zone



3 Crossing the Road

- Always cross the road in front of the bus, never behind.
- Take at least 10 giant steps in front of the bus.
- Pass the crossing arm; stop and look at the driver to give you the signal to cross.
- Walk, never run across the road.

This is the DANGER ZONE around the bus.

Remember:

- If you can touch the bus, you are too close!
- Use 10 GIANT STEPS to take you out of the DANGER ZONE.
- Be sure you can see the driver and that the driver sees you.
- IF YOU DROP ANYTHING IN THE DANGER ZONE, NEVER STOP TO PICK IT UP. Ask an adult or the driver to help.

a word to parents and guardians...

School Telephone Number

Teacher's Name

Bus or Route Number

Driver's Name

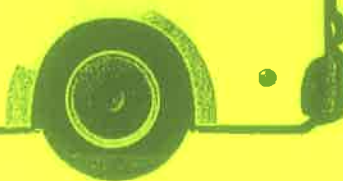
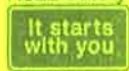
If I miss the bus at home, I should

If I miss the bus at school, I should

Remind your child to follow the school bus safety rules. Make sure your child knows what to do if they miss the bus. Record your child's school bus number and driver's name. Keep this card, or leave it in your child's backpack so that they always have it with them.



Think of us on the Bus Road Safety





2014-15 Student Transportation Contact List

NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Phone: 905-346-0290

Email: general@nsts.ca

Website: www.nsts.ca

Staff	Area of Responsibility	Email	Phone
Lori Powell	Executive Director	Lori.Powell@nsts.ca	905 346-0297
Jacklyn Rocco	Administrative Assistant	Jacklyn.Rocco@nsts.ca	905 346-0290
Kim Majcher	Operations Manager	Kim.Majcher@nsts.ca	905 346-0303
Rob Berketo	Project and IT Manager	Rob.Berketo@nsts.ca	905 346-0300
Jong Lee	Systems Administrator	Jong.Lee@nsts.ca	905 346-0298
Area - Transportation Coordinators			
1 - Jeff Friesen	Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Wainfleet	Jeff.Friesen@nsts.ca	905 346-0301
2 - Terri Capone	Pelham, Welland, Niagara Falls	Terri.Capone@nsts.ca	905 346-0295
3 - Ken Sandham	Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln	Ken.Sandham@nsts.ca	905 346-0294
4 - Brian Nesbitt	South St. Catharines, Thorold	Brian.Nesbitt@nsts.ca	905 346-0296
5 - Ann Erb	North St. Catharines, NOTL	Ann.Erb@nsts.ca	905 346-0299
6 - Heather Kyle	Niagara Falls, Welland, Pelham	Heather.Kyle@nsts.ca	905 346-0302