



August 28, 2020

Welcome to HRCE Transportation

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE). We are excited to have your child(ren) join us this September, and we want to make sure you have all the information you need about busing.

Stay connected with BusPlanner!

BusPlanner is a site that allows a parent/guardian to review all busing information, including bus schedules, stop locations and provides email notifications of any routing changes or bus cancellations/delays.

We sent you an email recently with a request to activate your BusPlanner Parent Portal account to review your child's transportation information. Please check your spam folder just in case the activation email got delivered there.

- *Once you've activated your Parent Portal account for the first time, you will be able to revisit anytime at hrcetransportation.mybusplanner.ca. You will also receive automatic email notifications.*

If you have not received an email yet or need help activating your BusPlanner Parent Portal account, please contact the Transportation Team for assistance as soon as possible.

What you need to know about busing this year

Safety is always a priority for HRCE Transportation and our service providers; however, this year, busing will look a little different. We are following all advice from Public Health as part of [Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan](#).

- Drivers, monitors, all children/students, and parents/guardians who may board the bus to help their child will be required to wear non-medical masks on school buses.
 - Masks should be put on before getting on the bus, and we encourage everyone to bring their own masks. [Click here](#) for how to wear and care for your mask.
- Buses will be cleaned twice daily. High touch surfaces will be cleaned before and after each run.
- A parent/guardian must accompany Pre-Primary children to Grade 2 students to the bus stop and remain with the child until they are safely boarded on the bus. This also applies to the stop at the end of the day.
 - If a parent/guardian is not at the stop to meet the child at the end of the day, they will be contacted, and the child will be returned to the school *after the run* for pick-up.
 - A parent/guardian is required to buckle and unbuckle their child (less than 40 pounds and 57 inches in height) and only if a seat belt is available. Bus drivers cannot leave their seats.



What to expect the first month of school

- With new COVID-19 protocols in place, please expect some delays in the first few weeks of September until routines get underway. We appreciate your patience.
- Please also arrive 10 minutes early to your stop before pick-up and drop-off this September and October as drivers cannot wait if the bus arrives early.
- Don't forget to set time aside to get that classic first-day back-to-school picture!
- Please remember school buses are on time if they arrive five minutes before the start of classes. Please check school websites for bell times.

Register today for the *Learn to Ride the Bus* program

We know that starting big school is a giant step for little people (and their families), so let's have a trial run for fun! Our service providers will be hosting a few one-hour workshops. Register your child today to learn how to ride the school bus safely this September.

Contact our HRCE Transportation Team at 902-431-4723 as soon as possible to reserve your time and location as limited spots are available.

August 28 - 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm: [George P. Vanier Junior High](#) or [Rocky Lake Junior High](#)

September 3 - 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm: [Porters Lake Elementary](#) or [Sir John A. MacDonald High](#)

September 4 - 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm: [George P. Vanier Junior High](#) or [Rocky Lake Junior High](#)

Address/Residence Change or Alternate Address

If you have changed daycares or you have moved recently, please contact your school with your updated address or alternate address as this change may affect your eligibility or routing.

We are here to help support families get back to school in September!

If you have any further questions, please contact the HRCE Transportation Team via email at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723. For more information, please visit hrce.ca/transportation.

Sincerely,

Earl Romkey
Transportation Coordinator