

## 2023/2024 School Year Bussing Changes

As a result of the wildfire evacuation, Transdev (the bussing company) will not be in a position to complete the bus pass application process for all students before the start of school on Thursday, September 14th. Twelve bus routes will be operational on September 14, 2023

Last year's bus passes will be accepted for the next couple of weeks, to enable the bus company to get the backlog cleared up.

New riders, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 students will not be able to ride the bus until they have a current bus pass. For health and safety reasons the bus company requires current consent forms for all riders, and there is no time to complete all of them before school buses begin running.

Please note: The following changes will be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year:

Yellowknife School Boards will be enforcing the existing distance criteria for riding the school bus. Students who meet the following criteria are eligible for a subsidized bus pass at a cost of \$225:

- 1.1 Kindergarten children living further than 0.4 km from school.
- 1.2 Students in grades 1 – 3 living further than 1.2 km from school.
- 1.3 Students in grades 4 – 6 living further than 1.6 km from school.
- 1.4 Students in grades 7 – 8 living further than 2.0 km from school.

***Bus passes will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Due to a limited number of seats available, they will be allocated for each school board based on the number of seats available and historical ridership.***

### **Change for students living closer to the school (as indicated above):**

In previous years, students who lived closer to the school were allowed to ride the school bus and paid a higher un-subsidized bus pass fee of \$480. However, due to a lack of bus drivers, these students will now be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted only if space becomes available.

There will be no increase in bus pass fees for the 2023/2024 school year. There will be an increase for the 2024/2025 school year.

To help resolve the lack of school bus drivers, we are working with Transdev to implement the following improvements to help recruit and retain bus drivers:

1. A \$5 per hour increase to school bus driver hourly wage from \$27 per hour to \$32 and the addition of employee benefits
2. Introduction of recruitment & retention bonuses
3. Installation of a GPS system on buses to assist drivers with route changes

Please help us recruit school bus drivers. If you or someone you know may be interested in supporting Yellowknife schools by becoming a school bus driver, please call Nancy at Transdev at 867-873-4693 to ask about driver training.

If you have any further questions, please contact Transdev at 867-873-4693