



**Southwestern Ontario Student
Transportation Services**

mybigyellowbus.ca
Tel No: (519) 649 1160

July 20, 2020

Transportation registration launched for 2020-2021 school year

To schedule bus service more effectively for students, Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) is introducing a **mandatory transportation registration for students who are eligible for bus service**. This does not apply to students who use specialized transportation to meet their unique needs.

Due to government limitations imposed on the number of students able to occupy a bus, and to support contact tracing efforts to fight COVID-19, individual riders will be assigned transportation based on registration only. In prior years, bus registration was automatic.

Ministry of Education guidelines have reduced bus capacity throughout the transportation system by approximately 60 percent. There are not enough extra buses or drivers to accommodate the increased demand caused by the reduction of available seats if physical distancing measures are implemented.

Parents and guardians can help to increase bus capacity for students who have no other way to get to school by driving their own children. Families can also support active travel ways for their students to get to school like walking or cycling.

School bus service is a shared ride environment, with multiple students using the space over the course of the day. Back to school preparations will include additional bus cleaning practices and community-based safety messaging, but some families may still not wish to use bus service for health or personal reasons.

Beginning the week of July 20, STS will email families of students eligible for transportation who are already registered for school in September. The email will contain a link to the Transportation registration form for those students who are dependent upon bus service.

After July 29, Transportation Registration will be available online at www.mybigyellowbus.ca for those who may not have received the email but are registered at the school and are eligible for transportation. Once the Transportation registration form is received by STS, a confirmation email will be sent.

In late August, families will be directed to set up a new Parent Portal account and login to check the transportation schedule. By that time, it is expected that the decision around the school year model will be announced and families will have another opportunity to decide whether they require transportation.

Transportation registrations close August 14 so that routes can be finalized before the start of school. No further Transportation registrations will be processed until after September 14, once ridership and late registrations have stabilized.



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Families should prepare now by registering their student at school and submitting any address changes to the school office. **Families should also make sure they know the Student ID number which is available by contacting the school office or in the school's Parent Portal.**

Transportation registrations must meet all terms and conditions to qualify for bus service. The information provided on the Transportation registration must match the student record on file with the school board or the Transportation registration will be rejected.

A special Transportation Registration hotline will be active on July 20 for help with the new Transportation registration and to support families who may not have access to a computer or the Internet. The hotline number is 519-432-0687.

Important Dates:

July 21	Transportation registration hotline opens (519-432-0687)
July 21 - 22	Registration released to Kindergarten to Grade 4 students
July 23 -24	Registration released to Grades 5 – 8 students
July 27 – 29	Registration released to High School students
July 29	Transportation registration form available at www.mybigyellowbus.ca
August 14	Transportation registration closed

One Transportation Registration form is required for each eligible student. Once you have received this notification, you may use the link for each of your students who require transportation.

STS is committed to ongoing communications with families as we prepare for September. We thank you for your continued patience.

General transportation-related inquiries can be submitted online using the [Contact Us](#) form at www.mybigyellowbus.ca or by calling 519-649-1160.