

School District No. 63

Saanich Schools

2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichon, BC V8M 2A5

(250) 652-7300

Fax: (250) 652-6421

2014-2015 School Bus Registration and Payment Information

Registration begins May 26, 2014

To guarantee routes and available seating, early registration is encouraged

Registration along with payment is due by the first day of school

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Although transportation to and from school is a parental responsibility and bus transportation is an optional service, the Saanich School Board remains committed to providing school bus service. The cost of our current bus service is \$1.32 million with funding from Government covering only \$1.0 million of this cost. In 2002 a Transportation Advisory Committee was formed to provide recommendations to the Board on how to save busing costs. The result of the Committee's work was a recommendation that school bus transportation be retained and that the over-expenditure be funded by a user fee for all riders. As busing is an optional service, Boards are legally permitted to charge this fee.

On April 30, 2014 the Saanich Board of Education adopted a budget that includes an increase in bus fees to help offset the transportation costs that continue to escalate. The monthly bus fee has been increased to \$30 per month. The \$30 student transportation fee is reduced to \$15 per month for the 3rd and 4th child in a family.

By registering your child for school bus transportation, you reserve a place within the legal capacity of the bus so that your child is able to ride whenever he or she needs to. For this reason, all students registered for the bus will be subject to the same fee regardless of how often during the month the child uses the service, or if they only need to ride one-way. The Board has heard from some parents who would like to have their child's friend ride the bus home with them occasionally and this will be permitted when possible within the legal capacity of the bus. Students will require a one-time bus pass available at the school office. There may be instances when students withdraw from a school during the year or for some reason may no longer require bus service. A refund policy, based on the same principle of reserving a spot for the student within the legal capacity of the bus, will allow for refunds on full months of service not used up in the school year.

Your early registration assists the District in planning the most effective bus routes while increasing the possibility for a bus route to be in your area. Please complete the registration form (available on our website) and return to the School Board Office or to your school.

SD63 Transportation Bus Cards (different from student cards) will be handed out in September to middle and secondary bus riders for whom we have received payment. Post-dated cheques are accepted.

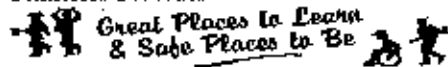
To assist in your decision regarding whether your child will ride the bus this September, please refer to the current bus routes which are posted on the District website (www.sd63.bc.ca). For more information on bus routes please call the Transportation Department at 652-7343.

Yours truly,



Barry Bodner
Director of Facilities
School District #63 (Saanich)

Saanich Schools



2125 Keating Cross Road
Saanichton BC, V8M 2A5

SCHOOL BUS REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE RETURN THIS REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT
TO THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE OR YOUR SCHOOL

To guarantee routes and available seating, early registration is encouraged.
SD63 school bus transportation is not tax deductible so therefore receipts will not be issued.

Faxes will only be accepted with complete credit card or online details included.
If you choose to fax, DO NOT send the original, otherwise duplicate payment may occur.
Fax number 250-652-6421

The cost is:

\$300.00 per year per student for the 1st and 2nd child in a family

\$150.00 per year for the 3rd and 4th child in a family

*The maximum per family is \$900.00 per year

Riding Start Date: _____		Check if applicable: First Nations Status on Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>	
		International Fee Paying <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____		Cell or Work #: _____	
Address: _____		Postal Code: _____	
Child's Name (First & Last)	School in Sept/14	Grade in Sept/14	Student No
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Signature of Parent/Guardian _____		Date _____	

Indicate Payment Option: Cheque(s) – Attached (Post dated cheques are acceptable)
 Online – *Bank Name:* _____ *Date Paid:* _____
 Cash
 Credit Card

I, _____ hereby authorize School District No. 63 (Saanich)
PRINT CLEARLY (NAME ON CARD) to charge my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Date: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Type of card: Visa MasterCard (circle one) After processing card information will be destroyed

Card #: ____/____/____ ____/____/____ Expiry Date: ____/____

Signature: _____

Frequently Asked Bus Questions

Questions regarding bus routes need to be directed to the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343.
Questions regarding registration & bus cards, please call the School Board Office at 250-652-7300
Questions regarding payments, please call the Finance Department at 250-652-7350

- 1) Are fees pro-rated?
 - Yes, if you ride 7 months, you only pay for 7 months.
- 2) Can a rider, ride one-way only for half price?
 - No, the Board of Trustees set the monthly rate with discounts only for 3rd and 4th children.
- 3) Can I pay monthly?
 - Yes you can provide postdated cheques.
- 4) What if we don't need the bus any more, can I get my money back?
 - Yes you will be reimbursed for the remaining full months.
- 5) Am I given a bus pass?
 - Bus passes will be provided to grades 6 through 12 students; Kindergarten to Grade 5 students are not provided with a bus card. Kindergarten through Grade 5 bus attendance is the responsibility of the school.
- 6) Can a friend ride with me?
 - Please contact the Transportation Department and they will check to ensure that there is enough room on the bus for your child. You can contact the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343 (office hours are: 7:30 – 4:00pm). A student's friend in grade 6 through 12 will require a one-time rider pass which will be available at the school office.
- 7) If my child is in K to grade 5 how does the driver know I have registered and paid for the bus?
 - Each elementary school has a list for the duty staff responsible for loading students onto buses. It is suggested that parents check with the school secretary and teacher to ensure their child's name is on the bus list.
- 8) I'd like a stop added or a route altered.
 - The Board of Trustees has approved the bus stops within our District and has also established walk limits. The walk limits for SD63 are: 4 km for K to 5 & 4.8 km for 6 to 12. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343.
- 9) What to do if the school bus doesn't arrive?
 - Students need to have a plan, approved by the parent/guardian in case the bus does not arrive. For information on schedules you can check the district web page (www.sd63.bc.ca); call the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343 or call the emergency contact number for a recorded message.
- 10) Who do I contact to see if the buses are running?
 - You can check the district web page (www.sd63.bc.ca); call the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343 or call the emergency contact number for a recorded message.

BUSING – General/Payment Information

Enquires:

For questions regarding bus routes, please call the Transportation Department at 250-652-7343
For questions regarding registration & bus cards, please call the School Board Office at 250-652-7300
For questions regarding payments, please call the Finance Department at 250-652-7350

General Information:

All riders must register yearly, including First Nations and International students.
Registration is May onward, with early registration encouraged
Registration with payment is due the first day of school

Cost of Service:

\$300.00 per year per student for the 1st and 2nd child in a family
\$150.00 per year for the 3rd and 4th child in a family
The maximum per family is \$900.00 per year

Payment Options:

Cash or Cheque(s) payable to "School District No. 63" at your child's school or at the School Board Office, 2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5. Please do not put cash in the mail.
Post-dated cheques and post-dated credit card payments are accepted.
No "online" monthly payments accepted.

Debit, Visa or MasterCard is available at the School Board Office

Online Banking:

Bank of Montreal
Canadian Western Bank
CIBC
Coast Capital Savings
Island Savings Credit Union
Royal Bank
Scotiabank
Vancity

Payee: SD63 Bus Fee

Account No: Student ID#

** Please identify the Bank Name and Date Paid on your registration form*

First Nations Riders:

In order to be exempt from bus fees, FN students must have status and be living on a reserve.

Waived Fees:

Families unable to pay bus fees can have the fees waived by the Principal of their school. Parents are to have this arranged with the school Principal prior to registering their child(ren) for the bus.

International Fee Paying Students:

The cost for busing is included in the annual fee.