

## Transportation Service FAQ for Parents of School-Aged Children

### What Transportation Services are available in Jasper for students?

The Municipality of Jasper provides a student-only morning and afternoon *School Special Transit Service* for eligible\* students attending one of the three schools within Jasper: École Jasper Elementary, Jasper Junior Senior High School, and École Desrochers.

Eligibility is determined by the Government of Alberta. Currently, the eligibility criteria stipulate that the student's primary residence is **2.4 km or more** from the school. However, if divisions wish to make transportation service available where possible, they can use the new\* eligibility distance criteria, which will not be mandatory until September 2025

\*The eligibility distance criteria being applied in advance of 2025:

- 1.0 km or more for children in kindergarten and students in grades 1-6
- 2.0 km or more for students in grades 7-12

### Important Clarifications:

- The School Special Transit Service is **not** a yellow school bus. A yellow bus is **not** a requirement for transit service for students.
- Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children to the bus stop in the morning and from the bus stop in the afternoon.
- Students who need to cross the street should do so at crosswalks before the transit arrives and after the vehicle departs the stop.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that they educate their children on basic safety around roads and traffic.
- The school staff is responsible for supervising the eligible students and ensuring they know where to wait for the bus at the school.

### What is a School Special Transit Service?

The two school divisions in Jasper are purchasing **bus passes** from the municipal transportation department in Jasper to provide a 'school special transit service' that is safe, reliable, and for **eligible-children-only** in the morning and then home in the afternoon on instructional days.

- **Only students who are eligible for this service** will have a **bus pass** that allows them access to the School Special Transit routes that occur in the morning and afternoon.
- The Transit Service extends beyond the morning pick up and afternoon drop off. The bus pass allows students to access Transit **any time** the service is operating during the school year - this includes evenings, weekends.

### What is the Division responsible for?

- alerting the municipality to the number of riders eligible to access the School Special Transit Service each month;
- providing the municipality school start and end times;
- providing the school principals with the names of eligible students;
- following up with parents to provide information on eligibility criteria and acquiring a bus pass;
- posting delays of over 10 minutes to the *BusStatus app*.

### What is the Municipality responsible for?

- providing schools with the required number of bus passes for eligible riders of the School Special Transit Service
- safe, reliable, sustainable transit service for eligible students on instructional school days
- alerting the school divisions if there is a service delay of over 10 minutes
- driver staffing and supervision. All drivers pass a vulnerable sector criminal record check as well as training per their safety policies.
- fleet maintenance
- posting the School Special Transit route schedule on their website.
- providing signage on the School Special Route vehicle to identify it to others using the roadway

### What is the Parent/Family responsible for?

- picking up a bus pass at the school
- supervising their children from home to the bus stop in the morning and from the bus stop to home in the afternoon
- communicating student absences to the school
- ensuring the school office is informed if the student is **NOT** going to ride the bus that afternoon
- ensuring they have taught their children basic traffic/road safety skills

### What are the Schools responsible for?

- ensuring eligible students have received their School Special Transit pass and the requirement to have it with them every day
- establishing and communicating processes and expectations with parents and students
- providing supervision at the school before classes begin
- providing supervision of School Special Transit riders at dismissal
- following up with parents/families if there is a discipline issue on the School Special Transit
- liaising with the school division to maintain up-to-date and accurate eligible student lists
- communicating any concerns or issues with the transit service to the school divisions

### Need more information or assistance?

- Please call Transportation Services at 780-723-4471
- Send your email to [transportation@gypsd.ca](mailto:transportation@gypsd.ca)