

August 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian of Kindergarten Student:

We are pleased to inform you that your child has been identified as eligible for transportation to the school listed below for the 2025-26 school year.

During the start-up period, as drivers, students and school staff become familiar with the new school year, there may be inconsistencies in pick up/drop off times. Most of these issues will self-correct. We thank you in advance for your patience. To assist in minimizing delays, **we ask that students be at their designated bus stop ten (10) minutes before the pick-up time as listed on the parent portal.**

Ensuring the safe transportation of Kindergarten riders requires the collective efforts of Parents/Guardians, bus drivers, school staff, bus operators and HWSTS. We utilize additional safety measures to promote the identification of Kindergarten students.

HWSTS uses a professional contact centre for the start-up period. This approach ensures that callers will connect with a "live" person and helps to minimize HWSTS response times. If any of the information below is incorrect, or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to telephone 1-800-691-6402 or 905-523-2318 or visit our website: www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca or by email at: hwsts_transportation@hwcdsb.ca

If your student will not be using this service, please fill out the Opt-Out form: <https://hwsts.mybusplanner.ca/Workflow/Forms/HWSTS/DeclineTransportation.aspx?FormVersionId=8e754c7a-4d54-4365-a704-afb6c9ffaf52>

Carriers:

ATT = Attridge Transportation (905-690-2632)

FSC = First Student Canada (905-522-3232)

SHA = Sharp Bus Lines (905-679-0001)

Important note: Families with children starting Kindergarten will receive their bus stop information on the parent portal which will open Tuesday August 19th, 2025. A communication regarding the parent portal was sent last week through School Messenger.

(<https://hwsts.mybusplanner.ca/Login?ReturnUrl=%2FSubscriptions%2FChildTransportInfo>)

We understand that as a Parent/Guardian of a Kindergarten student the prospect of placing your "little one" onto a school bus by themselves can be stressful. Student safety is our highest concern and we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the unique mechanisms in place to support our youngest riders, as they become familiar with riding the bus.

Identification: HWSTS is providing unique school bus shaped luggage tags to all Kindergarten students to assist with ease of identification. This tag will be handed out at the school on the first day of classes. All Kindergarten students **MUST** have this tag affixed to a prominent location on their backpack / person. Replacement tags can be obtained from your school throughout the school year if necessary. In the rare event that your child doesn't get off the bus at the assigned

stop, then you should proceed to call the Bus Operator/Carrier. Phone numbers for our carriers are found on our website www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca. If there are issues contacting the operator, the next step would be to call your child's school and finally if the school can't be reached, contact HWSTS.

Accompaniment: HWSTS recommends all Kindergarten students be accompanied by a responsible individual over the age of 12 yrs. old **EVERY DAY**. In accordance with individual Board policies, school bus drivers will not release students from the bus in the absence of a guardian; they will be returned to school. Please refer to the applicable Board policy on the HWSTS website for specific details. Parents / Guardians are automatically authorized to receive Kindergarten students at their bus stop.

First Rider Program: Our First Rider program is now being offered in person **and** online. Please visit our website: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/saferider.aspx> for information on both options. The program is a helpful resource to introduce JK and SK students and their parents to the school bus environment and rules in a fun and interactive way. The program is running Saturday August 23rd 2025. Ticket information is located here: https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/initiatives/first_rider_locations.pdf