



Wolf Creek Public Schools

March 21, 2025

Subject: Important Update: Changes to Eligibility Distances for No-Fee Busing

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to ensure that you are informed and up to date on important changes that may impact your family in regards to busing. On **December 17, 2024, the Provincial Government announced changes to the eligibility distances for no-fee busing**, which will take effect for the 2025-2026 school year.

Updated Eligibility Distances for No-Fee Busing

Effective next school year, **Wolf Creek Public Schools will adhere to Alberta Education's updated eligibility distances:**

- **Kindergarten to Grade 6:** Students must live **1.6 kilometers or greater** from their designated school to qualify for no-fee busing. (This is an increase from the 1.0 kilometers used for the 2024-2025 school year.)
- **Grades 7 to 12:** The eligibility distance remains unchanged at **2.0 kilometers or greater** from the designated school.

What This Means for Families

We recognize that these changes may affect some of our current riders. **Students who no longer meet the updated eligibility distance may no longer qualify for free transportation** and will either need to make alternate arrangements or may have the option to continue riding the bus for a fee, provided there is space available after eligible students have been accommodated.

We understand that this may cause challenges for some families. If you have questions about your child's eligibility, **please reach out to our Transportation Services team—we are happy to help.**

Important Deadline – June 1, 2025

To ensure your child's transportation needs are met, all families requiring bus service for the 2025-2026 school year must **submit their registration by June 1, 2025.**

- Applications received **after June 1, 2025**, will be subject to a **\$100.00 late application fee.**
- If you anticipate needing busing for your child, we encourage you to **register as early as possible** to secure a spot.

Tim De Ruyck
Superintendent of Schools

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Who should register?

- All urban (in-town) students in Ponoka, Lacombe, Rimbey and Blackfalds who would like to be considered for busing.
- All students new to transportation (ECS and students changing schools and are new to busing) who would like to be considered for busing.
- All students who are moving to a new address and would like busing.
- Cross-boundary students must re-register every year if they would like busing.

Who does not need to register?

- Rural students who have not had a change in address or school location and were bused this current school year.
- If parents are not sure if they need to register, they can reach out to our office at **transportation@wolfcreek.ab.ca**.
- If parents are unsure of which school boundary they live in, they can reach out to our office.

What do you need to do to register?

- Provide a **street address** if urban (including postal code) or **legal land description and complete 911 address** if rural.

Applications are to be submitted through the **Parent Portal** or **School Engage** at:
<https://www.wolfcreek.ab.ca/school-division/transportation/bus-status-page2>

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact our Transportation Services team at **403-785-0726** or email: **transportation@wolfcreek.ab.ca**.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide safe and reliable school transportation.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Tim De Ruyck
WCPS Superintendent

