

Student Transportation Service Consortium of Grey-Bruce

Procedures

Bluewater District School Board
Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board

TCP-B003

Procedure Title: FIRST RIDER PROGRAM	Approved: June 3, 2013 Updated: September 29, 2016
Related Forms:	Related Policies:

Intent: To describe the First Rider program
Stakeholders: School, Bus Operators, Public, Transportation Consortium

Procedure:

The **Association of Grey-Bruce School Bus Operators, the Bluewater District School Board and the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board** take safety very seriously and we know that the school bus is a new experience for many kindergarten students, and for their parents.

What ... is the First Rider program?

The First Rider program is an education and awareness program. It is designed to promote school bus safety to young children and their parents. It familiarizes young children who are beginning school with school buses and helps them overcome any fears they may have about riding on the "big yellow bus". It also provides information to children and their parents on school bus safety procedures, including how to get on and off the bus safely. The program is planned as a fun learning experience for the participants.

Who ... is it for?

The First Rider program is targeted at young children who will be entering the school system in September. It is primarily intended for those children who will be using school buses to go to and from school on a regular basis. It also provides information to parents on school bus safety procedures.

How ... does it work?

The First Rider program in Bruce and Grey counties is delivered by the School Bus Operators Association and includes:

- a safety video
- a review of school bus safety procedures
- a chance to explore the bus

There is no need to pre-register prior to the day of the event. Just drop in, new sessions start every 30 minutes. Children will watch a bus safety video appropriate for pre-school age children. Afterwards, children proceed to the bus. The rules learned in the video are reviewed, and then children board the bus with their parents. Rules for loading and walking in front of the bus are reviewed. Children attending will receive a certificate for completing the program. Parents will also receive additional information on safety procedures, such as ensuring that children are dropped off and picked up on time and that young children are supervised while waiting at the bus stop.

Where is it happening?

Several central locations will be offered throughout Grey & Bruce counties so families can choose the date and location most convenient for them.

When ... does it happen?

Mid to late June and August of each year

Why?

School bus transportation is extremely safe. To maintain this safety record, children and their parents must be familiar with school bus safety rules such as how to get on and off the bus safely and how to behave on the bus. The First Rider program is an opportunity to introduce school bus safety rules to children, and for parents to become familiar with school bus procedures.

It also allows parents and children to ask questions about school bus safety and related issues.