



Office of the State Superintendent of Education  
Division of Student Transportation

# **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION BUS SAFETY KIT**

**2021-22 | Extended School Year**

## MESSAGE FROM THE

# DIRECTOR



**Kenneth King**  
Interim Director,  
Division of Student  
Transportation

Welcome to the 2021-22 Extended School Year (ESY). I am excited to serve as your Interim Director of Student Transportation. I've dedicated my career to being a public servant and advocate for our youth. It is a great honor to expand on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Division of Student Transportation's (OSSE DOT's) core functions and work collaboratively with our stakeholders to continue to provide exceptional transportation services.

The Division of Student Transportation's primary focus is to meet the needs of the students and families we serve. Our families are the most critical element of our operations and have an important voice. It is our goal to create a positive experience and increase access to quality education for the children and families we serve. Despite the challenges faced in the 2021-22 school year, our staff has worked relentlessly to provide exceptional service. We are thankful for their commitment and your continued support.

I warmly greet our students and families for the upcoming 2021-22 ESY and look forward to working with you. I encourage you to read this guide and visit us at [osse.dc.gov](https://osse.dc.gov) to learn more about our division and agency!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Kenneth King**  
Interim Director, Division of Student Transportation

*\*Disclaimer: Contents of this kit are in accordance with and guided by recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local partners as of May 2022. OSSE DOT will continue to comply with all guidance from CDC and local partners when possible. The latest updates/guidance can be found on the OSSE DOT website at [www.osse.dc.gov](https://www.osse.dc.gov)*

# BUS | BETTER EQUIPPED FOR YOUR STUDENTS



OSSE DOT is committed to ensuring student safety while on school buses. All updated processes for transportation services are in accordance with and guided by recommendations set forth by the CDC and local partners.

## BUS CLEANING

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- Electrostatic sprayer machines will be incorporated into daily bus cleaning to provide an additional level of disinfecting on the buses.
- If an individual is confirmed to have symptoms or tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) and entered the bus within three days, the bus would be deep cleaned and disinfected.

## ON THE BUS

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- Bus capacity will comply with CDC recommendations when possible and is contingent on the vehicle manufacturer and the number of students per bus.
- **Morning/Evening Commute:** Students will board the bus based on pick-up and drop-off location.
- When unloading the bus, students in the front of the bus will get off first, following the last-one-on, first-one-off model.
- Bus attendants will sit in the seat closest to the rear, or the seat in the best location to monitor seating and bus safety.
- All required student accommodations will be provided as needed.

## BUS SAFETY REMINDERS

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Be sure to frequently remind your student of appropriate behavior on the bus to include:

- Following the instructions of the bus driver and attendant,
- Remaining in their seat for the duration of the ride, and
- Refraining from touching or playing with emergency exits.

## FACE COVERINGS

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The CDC currently does not require people to wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems. OSSE DOT is following this updated guidance. (Subject to change)

## STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

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Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor and screen children for symptoms of COVID-19 or other infectious viruses. Work with your school to receive information on how to properly monitor your students' health at home. If your student is ill, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other contagious illness, please keep them home. If your student must stay home due to illness, please be sure to contact the OSSE DOT Parent Resource Center at (202) 576-5000 to suspend transportation services.

## HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

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OSSE DOT encourages you to have open conversations to prepare your student for their morning transportation routine. Consider talking to your student about bus safety and welcome their questions and concerns.

## TEACHING PREVENTION

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To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious viruses, ensure your student continues to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, cough or sneeze into the elbow, and do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth.

## PICK UP AND DROP OFF REMINDERS

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Please ensure your child is ready to board the bus at the outermost door of your home during the assigned 30-minute morning pick-up window. Always ensure an adult is available for afternoon drop-off. We encourage you to maintain positive and open communication with bus drivers and bus attendants. Make sure your contact information is accurate and up to date to ensure you can be contacted in case of emergencies and for transportation updates.



**GETTING THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!**

## TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

OSSE DOT has worked diligently to provide a safe and reliable transportation system. Please see alternative methods for school transportation:

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### PARENT TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

OSSE DOT will reimburse parents who transport eligible students with disabilities to and from school. Please find additional information related to the Parent Transportation Reimbursement Program at: [osse.dc.gov/service/parents-transportation-students-disabilities](https://osse.dc.gov/service/parents-transportation-students-disabilities).

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### KIDS RIDE FREE PROGRAM

The Kids Ride Free program allows students to ride free on the Metrobus, DC Circulator and Metrorail within the District to get to school and school-related activities. To find out more about this program and eligibility, please visit the Kids Ride Free website at [ddot.dc.gov/page/school-transit-subsidy-program](https://ddot.dc.gov/page/school-transit-subsidy-program).

## STAY INFORMED



- For questions or concerns regarding your student's bus or bus route, call the OSSE DOT's Parent Resource Center at **(202) 576-5000**.
- For access to all COVID-19 guidance from OSSE and OSSE DOT, visit OSSE's website at [osse.dc.gov](https://osse.dc.gov).
- For information about the District of Columbia Government's COVID-19 response, recovery efforts, testing and local resources, visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).
- OSSE DOT encourages you to learn more about COVID-19 and other infectious diseases by visiting [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov).



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