Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Transportation Registration Opens for 2025/26 School Year; Register Early to Save on Fees

Rocky View Schools (RVS) has opened transportation registration for the 2025/26 school year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to register by June 30 to receive a \$40 discount or by Aug. 1 to ensure bus service for the first day of school.

RVS is proud to transport nearly 13,500 students on 324 routes, including 2,100 Calgary Catholic School District students who attend school in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane. Approximately 39 per cent of RVS students are bused. Collectively, RVS buses travel 14,941 kilometres each day.

"RVS maximizes every dollar of transportation resources to ensure reliable, efficient service at reasonable costs for families – without taking away from learning," said Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert. "Student transportation fees cover the gap between government funding and costs for providing the service so instructional dollars can be used for learning."

While the RVS Board of Trustees has successfully maintained transportation fees over the last four years, mounting costs required the Board to increase fees for 2025/26. Due to factors including driver shortages and training costs, inflation, climbing insurance premiums and maintenance, school bus transportation costs have risen 40 per cent over the past two years. To maintain service levels, the Board approved a necessary increase of \$70 to the regular annual transportation fee.

Fees for resident students in 2025/26 will be \$395 and \$197.50 for Kindergarten students who are transported once per day. Students needing to access a second stop will have an additional fee of \$395 for the seat they will occupy on the additional route.

RVS recognizes some families may face hardship when paying for transportation services. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the early registration discount to offset some of the transportation cost. Eligible families may also apply to have their transportation fees waived by completing a Transportation Fee Waiver.

The June 30 early registration discount of \$40 is extended to each of the first two Kindergarten – Grade 12 students in a family, with additional students receiving \$20 off if registering early. A minimum payment of 50 per cent is due at registration. Bus service may be cancelled up until Oct. 31 to receive a full refund for all fees paid.

Families are urged to register as soon as possible for transportation to ensure a smooth start to the fall. To guarantee service for the first day of school, registration must be received before Aug. 1. Students registered after this deadline may experience delays of two to three weeks before they can ride the bus.

Student bus services may be provided to eligible students in Kindergarten – Grade 6 who reside 1.5 kilometers or more from the school they attend, or are in Grade 7-12 and reside two or more kilometres from the school they attend. More information is available on the <u>Bus Services and Eligibility</u> page of the RVS website.

A step-by-step guide to registration, fee information and more is available on the RVS website.

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