RSCO
Greater Hartford Regional

RSCO TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2026

November 2026



Hello RSCO Families,

With a little over two months of school behind us, we are sharing transportation updates and helpful reminders to keep your children safe while traveling to and from school this fall.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Important reminders for a safe and smooth school year.

Student Contact and Pickup Information

Please make sure your child's contact information is up to date, including your email address, home address, and phone numbers. To protect your child's privacy, we can only communicate with individuals listed in your child's contact information profile.

If another parent, guardian, or authorized adult will pick up your child at the bus stop, please contact our office to add that person to your child's contact information profile.

Please be on time when picking up your child from the bus stop. Timely pickups help keep all students safe. Have a backup plan in case you are unavailable.

Bus Stop Changes

Since the start of school, the Routing Department has been assigning transportation to new students and students who moved over the summer. We appreciate your patience.

We are reviewing additional bus stop change requests. If you submitted a request, we will contact you once a decision has been made.

Thank you for your understanding.

Stipend Reimbursement

The 2026–27 Parent/Guardian Reimbursement Form is available online. Reimbursement is based on program eligibility and student attendance. The deadline is June 15, 2027. Find the form at www.crec.org/transportation/reimbursement.php.

Vehicle Tracking Apps

Did you know you can track your child's bus using a GPS app?

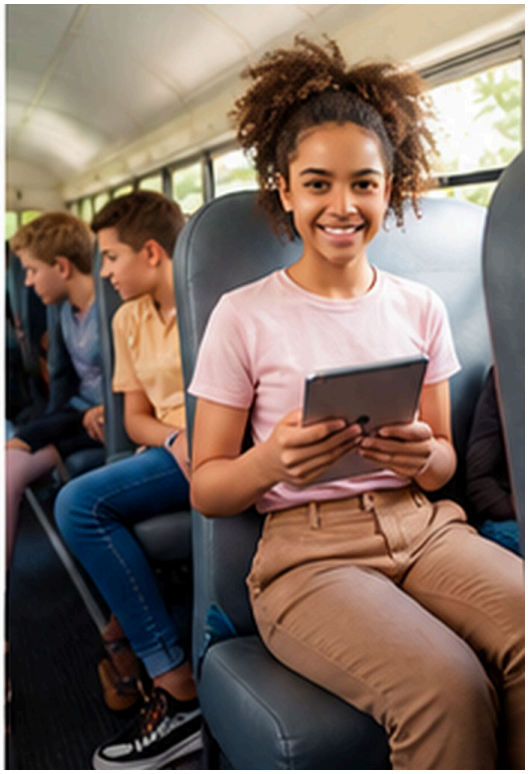
All RSCO bus contractors—DATTCO, First Student, and Transportation Management Solutions (TMS)—offer GPS apps that let you track your child's bus in real time from a smartphone or computer.

Depending on the app, you may be able to:

- View the current location of your child's bus
- Receive notifications when the bus is approaching
- Set up customized alerts to stay informed about your child's transportation

To register, visit the RSCO Transportation website at www.crec.org/transportation/rsco and scroll to the bottom of the page. Select your child's bus contractor for registration instructions.

If you experience technical issues with an app, please contact the RSCO Transportation Office at 860-524-4077.



Bus Stop Safety

School bus safety starts at the bus stop! Please take a few minutes to review these important safety rules with your child.

Waiting at the Bus Stop

- Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play. Children should always pay attention to their surroundings, especially near the road.
- Children should wait at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb. Show your child where to stand safely while waiting for the bus.
- When the bus arrives, children should wait until it comes to a complete stop and the safety lights and stop sign are activated before approaching.
- Never walk behind a school bus or run or walk alongside a moving bus.

SAFE BUS STOP HABITS

Stay 6 feet from the curb · Wait until the bus stops · Never walk behind the bus

Getting On and Off the Bus

Getting On and Off the Bus

• Wait until the bus has stopped completely and the door opens before approaching.

• Make sure your child is boarding the correct bus for their school.

• Remind your child to use the handrails when getting on or off the bus to prevent falls.

• Children should move away from the bus after exiting and never walk or play near the wheels.

Crossing the Street Safely

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If your child needs to cross the street after getting off the bus, remind them to:

• Walk at least five giant steps (10 feet) in front of the bus so the driver can see them.

• Make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for the driver's signal before crossing.

• Make sure the bus's stop sign is extended and the safety lights are flashing.

• Look both ways before stepping into the road to make sure all vehicles have stopped.

• Never cross behind the school bus.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AT A GLANCE

1

WAIT SAFELY

Stay at least 6 feet from the curb.

2

FOLLOW THE DRIVER

Wait for the driver·s signal to cross.

3

BOARD CAREFULLY

Use the handrail when boarding.

If Your Child Drops Something Near the Bus

Remind your child never to reach under or near the bus to retrieve a dropped item, such as a book, backpack, or ball. The driver may not be able to see them. Instead, your child should tell the bus driver immediately or leave the item and notify a parent or guardian.

By reviewing these simple safety rules together, we can help ensure that all students travel safely to and from school.

Inclement Weather Procedures

As winter approaches, please review how school delays and closings due to inclement weather affect RSCO Transportation.

School Closings, Early Dismissals, and Delays:

RSCO Transportation does not make individual phone calls or send text messages to notify families of weather-related school closings or delays. Parents and guardians are responsible for monitoring local television or radio stations for official announcements about school schedule changes.

How Weather Delays Affect Your Child's Bus Route

Weather conditions can vary from town to town, and school delays in one or more towns along your child's bus route may affect their transportation schedule. If multiple towns along the route announce delays, the longest delay will apply to the entire route.

To make planning easier, the RSCO Transportation Inclement Weather website automatically calculates weather-related delays for your child's bus route. Families are encouraged to check the website during inclement weather to stay informed about any changes to their child's transportation schedule.

Reminder: Check your school's delays and closings for changes to bus service.

Winter Bus Stop Safety

Cold temperatures, snow, and ice can create hazards at bus stops. Please review these reminders:

- Dress for the weather. Make sure your child wears warm clothing appropriate for winter temperatures, including a coat, hat, gloves, and appropriate footwear.
- Arrive on time. Students should be at their bus stop at least 10 minutes before their scheduled pickup time.
- Wait in a safe location. Students should stand away from the curb and roadway to allow the bus enough room to stop safely, especially when roads are snowy or icy.
- Watch for winter hazards. Be cautious of icy sidewalks, slippery surfaces, and traffic when walking or driving to the bus stop.
- Stay away from snowbanks. Students should never stand on or near snowbanks while waiting for the bus.
- Board carefully. Remind your child to use caution when approaching and boarding the bus, especially when steps or surrounding surfaces may be slippery.

Transportation Reminders

- Arrive at the Bus Stop on Time: Students should be at their assigned bus stop at least 10 minutes before the scheduled pickup time. The driver does not have to wait until the scheduled pickup time before leaving.
- Plan ahead for Early Release Days: Please mark your calendars for scheduled early release days. Be sure that a parent, guardian, or authorized adult is at the bus stop to receive younger students when the bus arrives. Remember that afternoon bus arrival times will be earlier than usual on these days. If you need assistance determining your child's bus arrival time on early release days, please contact the RSCO Transportation Office at 860-524-4077.
- Cell Phone Use on the Bus: Students using cell phones while riding the bus should be respectful of others. Headphones or earbuds should be used to avoid distracting other students and the driver.
- No Eating or Drinking on the Bus: Eating and drinking are not permitted on school buses. This rule helps protect students with food allergies and reduces risks for choking.
- Transportation Questions or Concerns: Contact the RSCO Transportation Office at 860-524-4077 or rscotransportation@crec.org.