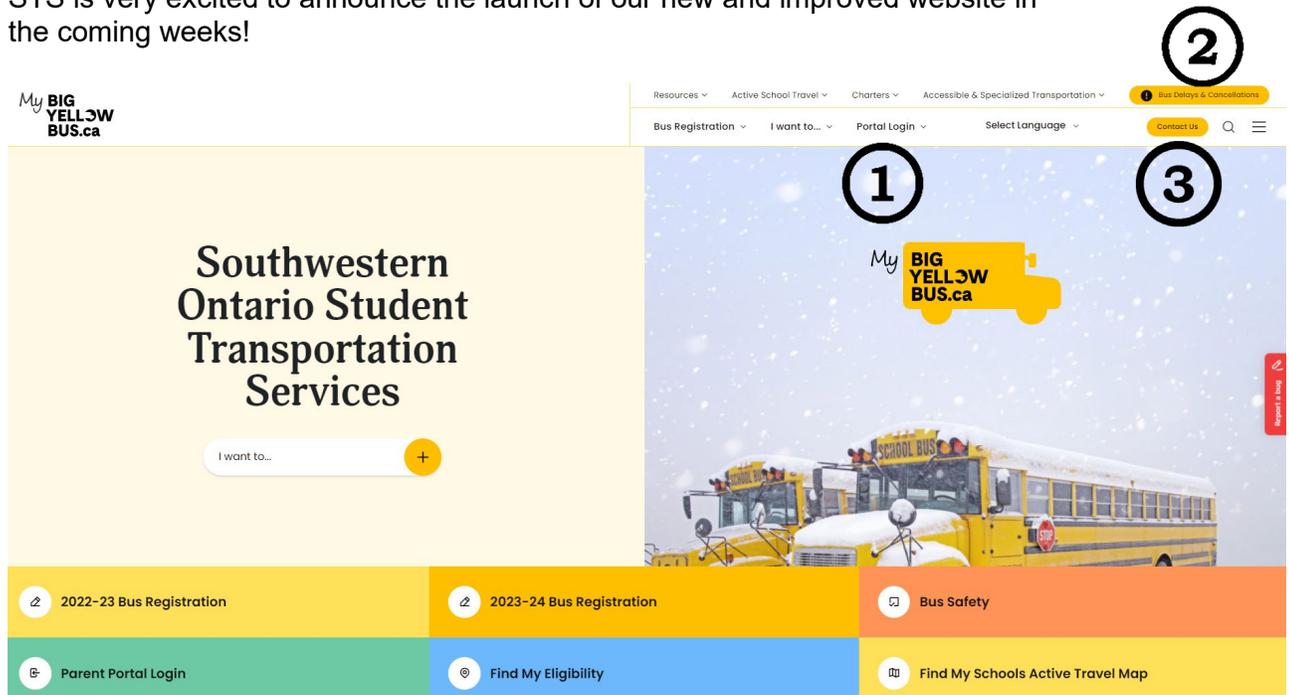


STS NEWS UPDATE November 23, 2022



STS is very excited to announce the launch of our new and improved website in the coming weeks!



A couple of important points to note:

- 1 Parent, School and Bus Operator portal login link can be found at the top of the page under the Portal Login menu
- 2 Bus Delays/Cancellations button is located at the top right corner of the screen
- 3 Online Contact Us form button



**Southwestern Ontario Student
Transportation Services**

mybigyellowbus.ca
Tel No: (519) 649 1160

The site is mobile compatible and looks great on both your tablet and smartphone.

Should you have any questions regarding the website please do not hesitate to contact us info@mybigyellowbus.ca or 519-649-1160.



STS NEWS UPDATE October 17, 2022

School Bus Safety Week is October 17-21, 2022. This is an excellent opportunity for school communities to recognize the importance of safe school bus practices.

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services will actively promote school bus safety on social media all next week. Join the conversation using #BusSafety22. Be sure to tag us in your posts.

Each year, our elementary schools look forward to a visit from **Buster the Bus** for the little ones and the excellent junior intermediate program for grades 4 – 8. Intertrain, the company who delivers the in-school safety program, once again will deliver a fully on-line school bus safety program for this school year. As always, the program is free to schools. Intertrain will be contacting each school shortly, if they have not already, to make booking arrangements.

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is Wednesday, October 19, 2022. School bus drivers and bus attendants are very proud of the work they do. We hope that your school will consider small gestures of recognition for your school bus drivers and bus attendants on that day. In previous years schools had students make cards and posters. No matter whether your gestures are small or grand, they are greatly appreciated by the bus community!

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss school bus safety week and how you can contribute to the celebrations.





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STS NEWS UPDATE October 3, 2022

School Bus Driver Shortages

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) advises that a shortage of school bus drivers is having an impact on school bus operations in the City of London and Middlesex, Oxford and Elgin Counties, similar to many other regions in Ontario.

Parents and guardians are asked to prepare alternate transportation arrangements in the event of school bus service disruptions due to bus driver shortages.

In the event of school bus route cancellations, the contractors will post the cancellations to the website as early as possible, per the normal practice. Families can choose from the following sources to find out about service disruptions:

- Check mybigyellowbus.ca frequently – make it a regular part of your morning and afternoon routine.
- Download the **BusPlanner Delays** app and subscribe to your student's bus run for push notifications.
- Subscribe for emails in the Parent Portal at mybigyellowbus.ca

If a school bus route does not have a permanent driver and there is an insufficient list of supply drivers, the route could be cancelled for multiple days. In such instances, STS will provide special notification to the parents/guardians of the students assigned to the affected run(s).

We understand the significant impact this decision has on students and their families and their caregivers. STS is working with the bus contractor to try to minimize impact on students. Bus contractors continue to recruit and train school bus drivers. If you or someone you know would like an opportunity to work part time and support your community by helping kids get to and from school safely each day, [call the local branch of the bus contractor near you.](#)

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.



STS NEWS UPDATE August 25, 2022



As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year there are a few items that require your attention:

Parent Portal

The [Parent Portal](#) is now open on the [mybigyellowbus](#) website. Families who registered for transportation must login and check their transportation details.

The first day of school is Wednesday, September 7. STS will continue to make routing changes to address bus loads right up to the start of school – check the Parent Portal the weekend before school starts to confirm pick up times.

To set up a Parent Portal account, follow the [instructions](#). There are also [troubleshooting tips](#) in case you encounter any difficulties.

Bus routes normally take a while to settle over the first couple weeks of September and we expect this year will require even more time for routines to be established. Please be patient with your bus driver as everyone adapts to the changes required for the fall.

Buses may run off schedule or late for many reasons during the first few weeks. **Download the [BusPlanner Notifications App](#) to receive notifications about**



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your bus sent to your smartphone to stay informed. You will need to know the Bus Run number from the Parent Portal before you set up the app. If you do not have access to the internet, the school can provide your transportation information over the phone. School offices are open now.

Possible Bus Driver Shortages

Parents and guardians are asked to prepare for school bus service disruptions. Unfortunately, it is possible we may experience some driver shortages in our service area. The reality of driver shortages means route cancellations will be unavoidable in some cases.

We recommend that you check our website in the morning and afternoon and download the BusPlanner Delays app to stay up to date.

****New** Eight Light Amber-Red Warning Light System on School Buses**

Effective July 1st Ontario required all school buses to be equipped with the Eight Light Amber-Red warning light system. This new system uses two stages of flashing overhead signal-lights to signal that a school bus is slowing down (amber lights) and stopping (red lights) to improve clarity to surrounding road users. The adoption of this system will improve road safety and align Ontario with measures taken in other Provinces who have already adopted the Eight Lamp Amber-Red Warning system.

Please find a link below to a quick informational video regarding the change in legislation.

[New School Bus Warning Light System](#)

Need help?

Please check out our [website](#), [Twitter](#) feed and [Facebook Page](#) for information and self-serve options.

Once you have reviewed all the sources of information listed above, if you still need help, contact our [office online](#) or by phone at 519-649-1160.



STS NEWS UPDATE July 1, 2022

New Amber Lights on School Buses Coming July 2022

Starting **July 1, 2022**, Ontario will require all school buses manufactured on or after January 1, 2005 to be equipped with four (4) overhead amber signal-lights and four (4) overhead red signal-lights. The current system in place in Ontario uses red lights only. The new ***Eight Lamp Amber-Red Warning*** system uses two stages of flashing overhead signal-lights to signal that a school bus is slowing (amber lights) and stopping (red lights) to improve clarity to surrounding road users. The adoption of this system will improve student transportation and road safety and align Ontario with measures taken in all other provinces who have already adopted the Eight Lamp Amber-Red warning system.

School buses servicing schools in the London District Catholic School Board and Thames Valley District School Board will be retrofitted over the summer in order to ensure compliance with the new regulatory requirements.

Please find a link below to a quick informational video regarding the change in legislation.

[New School Bus Warning Light System](#)



Effective July 1, 2022.

Watch out for updated overhead “Amber” warning lights on the back and front of school buses this summer.

Flashing overhead “Amber” lights means that the bus is slowing down and is about to stop to pickup or drop off students.

When you see a school bus with its overhead “Amber” lights flashing:

- Slow down
- Be prepared to stop
- Watch out for children



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Effective July 1, 2022.

There is a new message
on the back door of school buses:

“DO NOT PASS WHEN RED LIGHTS FLASHING”

This new message reinforces our school bus stopping laws
and is a good reminder for everyone:

Red Lights Flashing..... NO PASSING





STS NEWS UPDATE May 30, 2022

School Bus Registration Opens for the 2022-2023 School Year

School Bus registration for eligible students for the 2022-23 school year is now open! To schedule bus service more effectively for students Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) has an annual mandatory registration process for students who are eligible to receive bus service.

[2022-2023 School Bus Registration Form](#)

For students who have special needs and require specialized transportation arrangements, the registration form is available [here](#).

Know Your Student ID

Prior to registering, families should also make sure they know the Student ID number which is available by contacting the school office or in the school's Parent Portal, or in your STS Parent Portal.

Registration Deadline

Bus registration applications will close on July 15, 2022, so that bus routes can be finalized before the start of the school year. Families who register after July 15th may experience delays in being assigned to transportation before school starts in September.

You don't need bus service?

No action is required. School bus service is a shared ride environment, with multiple students using the space over the course of the day. Some families may choose not to use the school bus service for personal reasons. ***If you are not using the school bus, you do not need to register.*** We understand that your circumstances may change, if they do, please complete a registration form at that time.

Frequently Asked Questions

We understand you may have questions or may need assistance completing the registration form. We are here to help you!

- Visit our Help Page for [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Send us a message at [Contact Us](#)
- Call our Registration Hotline at 519-432-0687