



Transportation Information for Alternative Programs of Choice

Students registered in Alternative Programs of Choice access yellow school bus service for a fee within a congregated stop mode at the elementary school level. Older students access Calgary Transit regular routes for a majority of middle school and junior high schools.

What is a congregated stop? Congregated stops are used when a small number of students from multiple communities congregate or gather at one stop to take a bus to their chosen school. At the CBE, a congregated stop model is used for students who attend alternative programs and use yellow school bus transportation.

[Student safety remains our top priority](#) when selecting a congregated stop location – we look at a number of factors including student safety, ease of access for the bus, public space for students to gather and available parking for parents. Stops are located along collector residential roads and centrally within the community to minimize changes year to year. For students attending some alternative programs (particularly where there is only one site in the city), stops may not necessarily be within walking distance. These stops are a gathering point for students in nearby communities where the number of riders is very low. Given the distance to a stop for some programs, families may make alternate arrangements to get to the stop or the school.

- The majority of elementary aged students in larger alternative language programs (*French Immersion, Spanish Bilingual and TLC*) will have a stop within 1 km from home because of the higher density of student population within a community accessing these schools and programs.
- It can be expected that the longest distances to a K-9 congregated yellow bus stop will be mostly for students travelling across the city to a program at a single site.
- For students in middle/junior high schools, service may be provided via yellow school bus or Calgary Transit. This is reviewed annually by CBE transportation and is subject to change
- High School students attending an Alternative Program of Choice are designated to Calgary Transit.

For a list of CBE middle/junior high schools currently designated to Calgary Transit, please visit our website for [Calgary Transit Information](#).

When considering or registering your child for an Alternative Program of Choice, please verify the expected mode of transportation by contacting the school.

Pre-registration for transportation through the [MyCBE / Powerschool](#) website is a critical component contributing to the successful planning of K-9 congregated routes and stops.

Congregated stops are reviewed annually based on pre-registrations received by the deadline. Pre-registering for transportation ensures that your address will be included in transportation routing and stop planning decisions.

The invitation to all CBE parents to pre-register for transportation occurs in every year in late spring and is communicated via email (School Messenger). If you do not yet have a [MyCBE / Powerschool](#) account, please register for one.

In the event that you move to a new home, which results in your child being designated to a different school, then your child is re-designated to their Alternative Program at the new site. If there is a change to where the alternative program is housed, based on a CBE planning decision, then your child will be required to attend the new school.

If a parent wishes for their child to remain at the current location, despite a CBE-initiated program move or home address change, the school principal may allow a student to remain based on the availability of space and resources. In this case, the student would be considered to be attending a non-designated school/program. Transportation service is not provided and therefore becomes the responsibility of the parents/guardians.