



**School District No. 51 (Boundary)**  
**Traversa Bus Card Program, Phase 1**  
**April 2024**

*SD51 is excited to announce the launch of phase 1 of the transportation management program, Traversa! Effective April 8/2024, all bus routes in the West (Route 7, 8, 9 and 10) will go live with bus cards for students. Cards will be distributed to students by schools the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> and students will begin scanning their bus cards when they load/unload the bus on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please help your child(ren) find a secure way to carry their card and ensure that cards are easily available to scan when loading/unloading the bus. A retractable lanyard will be provided to each student as an option to attach the bus card to their backpack.*

*Please read below for more information.*

**What is the Traversa?**

Traversa is a student transportation management program. Buses are equipped with a tablet and students will be issued a bus card to scan when loading/unloading the bus. The program provides a reliable way to identify bus ridership and helps assure student safety while travelling by school bus by providing the Transportation Department with information on when, where and what time students get on and off their bus(es). In addition, the real time data improves communication to parents and school sites and enables the Transportation Department to develop bus routes and bus stops more efficiently. In an emergency, an accurate list of who is on the bus at the time can be provided.

**What is our goal for the program for the remainder of the school year?**

Our goal is to distribute bus cards to all bus students via the schools and collect ridership data. There will be no changes to current policy or procedures or to bus routes/stops. The only difference is registered students will have bus cards and non-registered students will need to use the "Temporary Student Bus Transportation form" (as before). There are no other changes to the process from previous years – it still requires a note from parents and a completed form from the school office.

**How do the bus cards work?**

Students registered for bus transportation will receive a customized bus card with an RFID chip. An electronic reader installed on the bus will identify the card being scanned by each student upon entering or leaving the bus. The bus card ID number, time, date and location of each card scan is logged and transmitted to a secure, confidential database.

**Will a student be able to share a bus card?**

No, bus cards are not transferable and are not to be used by any other student.

**What student information is included on the bus card?**

The bus card reader on the bus records the bus card ID number, along with the date, time, location, and bus number for each card scan event. No personal information about the student is included. Once the card ID reaches the secure database, it is matched up with the student to whom that card is associated. The information is stored in a confidential, secure database. This information is then used to determine bus ridership and is readily available in case of an emergency or lost student situation.



**How will SD51 ensure that student information remains confidential?**

The card ID number is matched to the student in Traversa's web-based application, Tyler Technology, which stores all user-defined data on Traversa's secure Canadian servers. The bus card application and data is only accessible by those with proper authentication (user login and password) and only authorized District employees have approved log-in information.

**How will students receive their bus cards?**

The Transportation Department will issue cards to schools and the schools will then disperse cards to students through the classroom teacher or office.

**Will parents need to contact the Transportation Department to receive bus cards?**

No, bus cards for all students currently registered for busing will be automatically generated.

**What if a student loses their bus card?**

If a student loses their bus card, report the lost card to the school office ASAP. Students without a bus card will board the bus last as the driver must load them manually into Traversa until their replacement card is received.

**What if the bus card stops scanning?**

Should a bus card become defective, please report it to your school office immediately. The defective card will continue to be presented to the driver to board the bus until the new card arrives, at which time the new card will be swapped for the defective one. Students with a defective card will board the bus last as the driver must load them manually into Traversa.

**What is the fee for lost cards?**

There will be no replacement fee for lost cards in phase 1 of the program.

**Will students without bus cards be allowed to ride the bus for field trips and other school activities?**

Yes, the school will keep a list of all students who have boarded the bus for a field trip for emergency purposes. There is no change to the current process / procedures for field trips and other activities during phase 1 of the program.