

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This memo provides information about changes to several safety bus routes next school year that may affect your child/children.

### **What is safety busing?**

The State of Idaho permits school districts to provide bus transportation for students who live outside a 1.5 mile radius of the nearest appropriate school ([Code §33-1501](#)). Exceptions to this rule can be made if the district's Board of Trustees determines that a student's age, health, and/or safety are such that the district should provide bus transportation to that student, even if he/she lives inside the 1.5 miles radius of his/her school. This service is called *safety busing*.

### **The district was required to make changes.**

Last fall, the Idaho State Department of Education conducted an audit of the district's safety busing process and routes. The audit concluded that the district's current safety busing needed to be reevaluated. To do this work, the district created a Safety Busing Committee made up of people from the community and the school district. This committee's job was to review current safety busing practices and make recommendations to the Trustees to ensure the district is in compliance with state safety busing requirements.

### **The committee established a safety score and adjusted safety busing routes.**

- The committee's work included assigning safety scores across the district based on hazards students may encounter while walking to and from school in those areas. Determining a safety score and reevaluating safety busing routes will ensure consistency across the district.
- After a thorough analysis, the committee recommended the district's safety busing score be set at 50, which means students who live in areas with an assigned safety score below 50 are not eligible for safety busing (many other districts set a higher safety score of 70).
- District staff presented the Safety Busing Committee's recommendations to the Board of Trustees on July 8, which they accepted. The safety bus route changes will be implemented in fall 2024. Specific bus route information will be available mid-August on the [Transportation Department's web page](#) and through your Skyward account.
- The changes made to our safety bus routes resulted in changes to our student Walk Zones, or areas where bus transportation is not provided. Current [Walk Zone maps](#) are available on the [Transportation](#) web page. Please check the Walk Zone maps for the school(s) your child/children attend. *Note: we redesigned the district's website, so it will look different to you.*

### **Safety bus route changes are below:**

Areas with specific bus routes impacted by the new safety score are listed below. If your child/children live in one of these areas, they will no longer be eligible to ride the bus next year.

Dalton Elementary School

Rt 30: Trinity Estates & Hillview Estates

Canfield Middle School

Rt 8: Northwest, within the 1.5 mile radius, south of Prairie Avenue

Rt 6: Southeast within the 1.5 mile radius

Lakes Middle School

Rt 9: Fernan Village

Rt 26: Northwest quadrant, within the 1.5 mile radius, south of I-90

Rt 31: Areas within the 1.5 mile radius, east of Hwy 95 & Northwest Blvd., and north of I-90

Woodland Middle School

Rt 2: Northcentral, within the 1.5 mile radius, south of Prairie Avenue between N. Atlas Road & N. Ramsey Road

Coeur d'Alene High School

Rt 4: West of Government Way, within 1.5 mile radius, Anton Apartments

Rt 6: Southeastern, within the 1.5 mile radius

Rt 8: Northern, within the 1.5 mile radius, south of Prairie Avenue

Rt 31: South and southeastern, within the 1.5 mile radius

Lake City High School

Rt 2: Northern section of 1.5 mile radius, south of Prairie Avenue, between N. Atlas Road & N. Ramsey Road

Rt 16: Kathleen Corners

Venture Academy

Rt 9: Fernan Village

Areas within the 1.5 mile radius, east of Hwy 95 & Northwest Blvd for the following routes:

Rt 4

Rt 6

Rt 28

Rt 31

**What to do if your child/children don't qualify to ride the bus.**

We recognize these changes will impact your families, however, the adjustments are necessary for the district to be in compliance with state law regulating safety busing. We encourage you to determine and review safe walking paths to and from school with your children, form carpools, or start a Walking School Bus or Bike Train in your neighborhood. The U.S. Department of Transportation provides guidelines to [Teach Children to Walk Safely](#) and information about [Walking School Buses](#) which may be helpful to you.

If you have questions, please contact our Transportation Department at (208) 667-3451 or email us at [cdaschools.transportation@cdaschools.org](mailto:cdaschools.transportation@cdaschools.org).

Sincerely,

Donda Walsh  
Director of Transportation