

# T-Pass

NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Know when your child gets on and off the school bus with T-Pass

Newport News Public Schools Transportation Department is launching T-Pass, a new student-tracking tool for families. With the T-Pass system, parents and guardians can see when their child gets on and off of the school bus via the Here Comes the Bus website and app. Parents and guardians will know the bus number, time of the scan and the exact location where their child got on or off of the bus.

### How does it work?

Students will be issued a T-Pass card that they will use to swipe a card reader mounted near the school bus door as they board and exit the school bus.

Parents and guardians can use the Here Comes the Bus website and mobile device app to view when their child scanned on and off the bus on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

1. **Students place their T-Pass in front of the card reader as they enter and exit their yellow school bus.**
2. **The card reader returns an audible beep and turns green confirming the T-Pass was read.**
3. **The time, date and location of where students get on and off the school bus are immediately recorded to a secure database, accessible only by transportation officials, school staff and parents/guardians.**



# Student Ridership T-Pass FAQs For Families

## What is Student Ridership?

- Student Ridership is part of the Here Comes the Bus platform. It helps us stay informed of important bus rider information including students who miss stops, get off at the wrong bus stop, or try boarding the wrong bus.
- It allows us to use real data for improved planning decisions, opportunities for bus stop consolidation and identifying ridership trends and state reporting.



## What happens if my child loses their T-Pass card?

- Students who lose their T-Pass card may get a replacement card at the school office. We ask that students keep their T-Pass card in the badge holder or on a lanyard to reduce the likelihood of them losing it.

## Is there a fee for a replacement T-Pass card?

- At this time the school district is not charging a fee for replacement cards; charging a replacement fee may be something that could happen in the future.

## If my child loses their T-Pass card, is issued a new one, and then finds the lost T-Pass card, can they still use both?

- They can't use both cards. The new card will overwrite the old card in the system, making the old card unusable.

## Will my child receive a new T-Pass card each school year?

- Your student will not receive a new card each school year. We ask that families hold the T-Pass card to use the next school year.

## Are T-Pass cards school/bus stop specific? If we move will my child still use the same T-Pass card?

- T-Pass cards are not school/bus stop specific. Your child can still use the same T-Pass card if your family moves and/or your child's bus stop changes. The T-Pass is based on the student's ID number.

## Will preschool and kindergarten students still need to use yellow cards (the 3-card system)?

- Yes, the T-Pass card will not replace the use of the yellow card. Preschool and kindergarten students/parents are still required to use the yellow card to get their child off the school bus.

## Can new students get on the bus without a T-Pass card?

- New students can get on the bus without a T-Pass card in the morning, but if they don't have a card in the afternoon they will need a note from the Principal to allow them to ride the bus until they are able to get their T-Pass card.

## Can existing students get on the bus without a T-Pass card?

- Existing students can get on the bus without a T-Pass card in the morning, but if they don't have a card in the afternoon, they will need to give the driver their student ID number prior to boarding the bus. New cards are only issued to students who are new to Newport News Public Schools and to students who have lost their cards and have been unable to locate their card after a minimum of three (3) days.

## What advantage is the T-Pass card with the Here Comes the Bus app?

- The Here Comes the Bus website and app allows you to see when and where your student entered and exited the school bus. Like push notifications for the bus, you can do the same with your student. The Here Comes the Bus App is available in three languages (English, Spanish and French). The Here Comes the Bus app can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play. There is no fee for the app; basic access on the website is free. **To sign up, visit [www.bit.ly/NNPST-PassSignUp](http://www.bit.ly/NNPST-PassSignUp) and enter account number 74046 and your student's NNPS ID number.**

## What is encoded inside the barcode, and what is stored on the T-Pass card?

- The barcode only contains the student ID number that your student is assigned by Newport News Public Schools. The only thing encoded inside the card (RFID) is a random 16 number/letter string such as A123B456C789DF01. This 16-digit string is associated with a student ID stored in a secure database.

