



360 Fairview Ave W, Suite 318, Essex, Ontario, N8M 3G4
Phone (519) 776-6431 Fax (519) 776-4457 www.buskids.ca

Date: March 31st, 2025

**By Email:
Town of Essex
33 Talbot Street South
Essex, ON
N8M 1A8**

Re: Determining of relocating bus stops in the Town of Essex

Thank you for your letter regarding student safety and Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services (WESTS) measures to establish safe school bus stops. We appreciate your concern and interest in ensuring the safety of students during their commute to and from school.

Information regarding bus stop development, roles, and responsibilities can be found on the WESTS website at <https://buskids.ca/>. Policies you may wish to view include the following:

- RR-01 Responsibility of Students
- RR-02 Responsibility of Parents / Guardians
- RR-05 Responsibility of WESTS
- SD-01 Walk Distance to the Bus Stop
- SD-07 Bus Stop Development

As you will see from reviewing these policies (specifically RR-05 or SD-07), WESTS is not obligated to consult with any of the municipalities in which it operates when developing or relocating bus stops. WESTS oversees over 16,000 school bus stops throughout the City of Windsor and the Counties of Essex. It would be impractical for WESTS to communicate with local municipalities about each bus stop location that a party may feel is unsafe. A formal process is in place for parents or guardians to request a review of a school bus stop, known as the “Stop Relocation Review.” This process can be found on our website (link provided above) and the forms for parents/guardians to fill out through our Parent Portal. I can assure you that WESTS staff are diligent in the placement of school bus stops to ensure they meet all policy requirements, with safety being of the utmost importance. The WESTS staff of nine employees collectively provides over 185 years of experience in the student transportation industry. In the interest of operating as good community partners, we would certainly encourage the administration from the Town of Essex to inform us about the location of any specific bus stops that have raised safety concerns. We will certainly be willing to discuss possible alternatives should it be determined that a change is warranted and that there are viable alternative locations that adhere to our policies and procedures.



I'm certain that, after reviewing these policies, you will also conclude that the safety of our students, bus operators, pedestrians, and other motorists is the most important priority in developing these policies and in the process of selecting locations for school bus stops.

WESTS provides formal avenues for parents/guardians who request a formal review of their child's bus stop location and a formal appeal process. These policies are located on the WESTS website.

- SD-04 Stop Relocation Review
- SD-03 Appeal Process

WESTS is committed to providing safe bus stop locations and would like to remind all parties that it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure their child/children access bus stops safely to and from school.

Please feel free to contact me at 519-776-6431 if you would like to discuss further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Arthurs". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chris Arthurs
General Manager
Windsor-Essex Student Transportation Services