

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NEW STUDENT I.D. BADGES

Student I.D. cards have long been used in public schools across the country. These cards have provided identification, ensured student safety, and have been used for many practical purposes during a student's school day. Thanks to funding from the *Security and Technology Levy* approved by voters in the *2019 Referendum*, Eastern Carver County Schools will soon distribute I.D. badges and lanyards to students.

A primary purpose of the new I.D. badges is to improve student safety by tracking when—and where—a student boards or exits a district school bus. The badge will also be used to pay for meals, to check out books and resource materials from the school's media center, and to sign into the student flextime scheduler.

Last spring, students at Jonathan Elementary successfully piloted the new badge system. The next step is to distribute badges and lanyards to all elementary and middle school students. High school students will receive new badges to replace their current student I.D. cards.



What kind of student data is stored on the I.D. badge?

The QR code, barcode and RFID code on each badge connects to student management systems such as transportation, the media center, meal payments and flextime scheduler. Elementary and middle school badges do not include the student's photo. New high school badges will look similar, but will continue to display the student's school photo as has been done in the past as the photo ID is commonly used for other purposes outside of school that require a photo to be valid.

What happens if my child loses the badge or lanyard?

Depending on the grade level and whether your child rides the bus or not, your child will wear the badge home each night and will be expected to wear it to school each day. Lost or damaged badges and/or lanyards will be replaced free of charge through your school office.

Will students get a new badge each year?

To save costs, badges will not be replaced every year. New badges will be distributed to students as they enter grades 3, 6 and 9.

How will the badges be used to track students on buses?

As students board and exit the bus, they swipe their badge over the scanner located near the dashboard. The transportation system records the student name, time of swipe, and the approximate location of the bus. This information is immediately uploaded to transportation staff tracking student ridership. Parents of children who

regularly ride the bus and are assigned to specific bus routes are able to track when a student entered or exited a bus using the *free MyStop* app.

What happens if my student gets on the wrong bus or rides a different bus with a friend?

If a student boards a bus he/she isn't assigned to, the system alerts the bus driver and the driver talks with the student before allowing him/her to ride.

Can a child ride a bus without a badge?

If a student forgets to wear a badge to or from school, the bus driver has the ability to manually look up the child's name on the scanner. If your child isn't assigned to any bus route, the scanner alerts the driver and he/she will speak with the student to ensure there is a note from the parent or if arrangements have been made to allow the student to ride.

Will I be able to track my child on field trips?

Different buses are used to transport students on field trips. **MyStop** cannot track students on buses that they are not normally assigned to ride to and from school.

Where can I learn more?

Watch a brief video about the new I.D. badges and learn more about **MyStop** at eccs.mn/badges.