

# School Bus Safety Tips

## School buses carry precious cargo.

As drivers, you carry the responsibility for making sure that school bus travel remains a safe way for children to travel.

School buses and school bus drivers are the most regulated vehicles and drivers in the province. You are responsible for maintenance of your bus equipment, passenger safety and control plus safe and timely passage on the roads.

## Three principles govern school bus safety.

1. Safety
2. Order
3. Respect

Every day, before taking a school bus onto the road, and while driving, you are responsible for making sure that the bus is in safe operating condition. You are required to do the following:

- 16 point outside inspection
- 28 point inside inspection

Information on any defects must be recorded in the log book and repaired promptly.

## Before proceeding, you must also:

- Check that the driver's seat belt is correctly worn and fastened.
- Drive forward and brake to a stop to test the service brake.
- Make an additional check of all gauges.
- Complete the log book entry.

At the end of the bus run, do a physical check to make sure that all passengers have left the bus.

As a driver, you are responsible for the physical and emotional safety of the children who ride on your bus. Each child must be confident that the bus is a safe place. To ensure this, you must maintain order and control.

Everyone on the school bus - drivers and passengers alike - must respect the rights of others.

## Plan a Safe Route

When route layouts are being planned, the safety of the children is the first consideration. The location and accessibility of a school bus stop is important.

- Ensure that bus stops are accessible in all kind of weather.
- Ensure safe walking routes between homes and bus stops.
- Do not load passengers on a steep grade or curve.
- Avoid using bus stops at intersections with traffic signals.
- Minimize the number of street crossings that children have to make getting to and from the bus.
- Make sure that bus stops are free from hazard.

Spread the word! The tear-off panel in this pamphlet provides some Quick Facts and Cool Rules. To remind children and parents about school bus safety, make copies of this panel and hand it out to your passengers.

## Let's All Get on Board for Safety



# Quick Facts



1. There are over 15,000 school buses on the road in Ontario.
2. More than 800,000 children in Ontario ride school buses every day.
3. The law requires all school buses have safety inspections every 6 months.
4. The most regulated Driver's licence in Ontario is a school bus class licence. It requires a medical; a check for no criminal record; a check for good driving record (less than 6 demerit points) and a MTO approved "Driver Improvement Course".
5. We carry your most precious cargo.

\*above information from MTO Publication ISBN 0-7794-5395-6 at [www.osba.on.ca](http://www.osba.on.ca)



# Be Cool! Follow the Rules

- 1 Be on time.
- 2 Never run to or from the bus.
- 3 Stand back from the curb.
- 4 Don't push or shove.
- 5 Stay in your seat.
- 6 Don't yell or shout.
- 7 Always obey the driver.
- 8 Wait for driver's signal before crossing.
- 9 Always cross at least 3 meters (10 feet) in front of the bus.
- 10 Never crawl under a school bus.

THSAO is committed to working with both management and employees in the transportation sector to create a healthy and safe work environment.

We work with our member companies through consulting, evaluations and training. As your partner in safety, together we can prevent occupational accidents, injuries and illnesses.

**Safety awareness is the first step to health and safety.  
Prevention is our ultimate goal.**

## THSAO

Transportation Health & Safety  
Association of Ontario

### Central Region/Head Office

555 Dixon Road  
Suite 101  
Toronto, Ontario M9W 1H8  
Toll Free: 1-800-263-5016  
Telephone: 416-242-4771  
Fax: 416-242-4714

### Eastern Region

CTTC - Carleton University  
1125 Colonel By Drive  
Suite 3100  
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R1  
Toll Free: 1-877-242-7094  
Telephone: 613-733-8762  
Fax: 613-733-4739

### Southwestern/Northern Region

3310 South Service Road, Suite 203  
Burlington, Ontario L7N 3M6  
Toll Free: 1-877-242-7077  
Telephone: 905-639-7581  
Fax: 905-639-8678

### Product Development

11 Bond Street  
Suites 202 & 203  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 4Z4  
Telephone: 905-682-7833  
Fax: 905-682-4942

[www.thsao.on.ca](http://www.thsao.on.ca)  
[info@thsao.mail.net](mailto:info@thsao.mail.net)

# School Bus Safety



## THSAO

Transportation Health & Safety  
Association of Ontario