
 <p><i>Student Transportation</i> Services of Thunder Bay</p>		Practice Document #: <b>STS-SAF-001.06</b>  <b>BUS SAFETY AND DRIVER INFORMATION</b>	
Category: <b>Safety</b>	Document Creation Date: <b>September 2011</b>	Document Last Revised: <b>January 2024</b>	Page <b>1 of 3</b>

<b>Statement</b>	<p>We appreciate our school bus drivers whose driving skill, experience and good judgment help ensure the safe transportation of students.</p> <p>A bus driver is the first adult a child typically sees outside the home each weekday. Like a teacher or school principal, the driver shows, by example, how a responsible adult behaves, especially when confronted with challenging situations.</p> <p>While managing up to 72 energetic children on a standard size school bus, the driver works at creating an atmosphere of mutual respect. In this way the driver becomes a trusted adult to whom children can go when they have a problem on the bus.</p> <p>The following is in place to ensure our drivers are well prepared for this role.</p>
<b>Practice</b>	<p>1. What are the licensing requirements for school bus drivers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifications to obtain a class B driver’s license are - A clean driving record that must be maintained, extensive training behind the wheel, criminal background check, a defensive driving course.</li> <li>• Medical test every 3 years</li> <li>• Written test every 5 years</li> <li>• Must be over 21, no criminal record</li> <li>• Successful completion of 40 hours of training consisting of in-class, on-road, defensive driving, student management components before being tested and licensed.</li> </ul>

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	<p>2. What type of safety training is provided by the Boards and/or the bus companies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member Boards require each of our Operators to provide all school bus drivers with five safety workshops per year, in addition to any their own Operator offers.</li> <li>• Boards require an “on board” safety evaluation be done with each driver annually.</li> <li>• Our school bus operators employ Safety Officers.</li> <li>• Training includes such things as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- student management</li> <li>- defensive driving</li> <li>- anaphylaxis training</li> <li>- code 1 situations (life threatening on bus) – should a code 1 situation occur all drivers are required to stay off the radio until the matter is resolved. The Operator is responsible for calling the Police or ambulance.</li> <li>- what to do should they be in an accident</li> <li>- effective student behaviour management workshops</li> <li>- special needs students with physical challenges</li> <li>- proper loading and unloading</li> <li>- emergency evacuation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>3. What type of communication (radio or cell) is available for drivers for assistance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All buses are equipped with two-way radios for communications with their Operator base and are monitored by STSTB.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Does the Board and the bus operators meet on a regular basis to review safety protocols/policies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Transportation Safety Advisory Council, which is made up of School Bus Operators, Safety Officers and STSTB staff meet to review safety issues when necessary, throughout year.</li> </ul> <p>5. What information is provided to parents, schools, and students regarding bus safety?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Rider Program – includes a video, safety, and on-board bus ride instruction for new students.</li> <li>• Guidelines, instructions, and responsibilities on the STSTB website (<a href="http://www.ststb.ca">www.ststb.ca</a>)</li> <li>• Various printed safety materials.</li> <li>• Emergency Snow Closure Procedures online at <a href="http://www.ststb.ca">www.ststb.ca</a></li> </ul> <p>6. What strategies/tools are in place to ensure bus safety?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Evacuation practice on school buses at all elementary schools by the end of October of every school year. This includes special needs students.</li> <li>• KID tag Program</li> <li>• Cameras on buses – as requested or needed</li> <li>• An evaluation process for new stops, turns and roads</li> <li>• Strobe lights on highway buses</li> <li>• Stop Arms</li> <li>• Visible parent program</li> <li>• Operator and route audits conducted through a robust Contract Performance Management Program</li> </ul>
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