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<b>Statement</b>	<p>STSTB considers the safety and conduct of students to be of paramount importance. We ask that students, parents, teachers, principals, operators, and drivers cooperate to achieve the common goal of a safe transportation system and use this outline as a guideline to reach this goal.</p>
<b>Practice</b>	<p><b>STUDENT BEHAVIOUR REPORTING</b></p> <p>As per the amendments made to the Ontario Education Act, September 2012, Part XIII: Behaviour, Discipline and Safety, All school bus drivers, as individuals who are not board employees, but who come into direct contact with pupils of a board on a regular basis in the normal course of carrying out their employment functions as an employee of a person who provides services to the board are required to report student misbehaviour to the pupils' principal as soon as reasonably possible.</p> <p>Reports are to be in writing using the STSTB supplied form (STS-FRM-022 Student Behaviour Report, see Appendix A). Alternatively, school bus operators may use their own form as long as it contains the same information shown on the STSTB form.</p> <p>Once the report is submitted, it is the principal's duty to investigate and administer discipline to the reported students if necessary. However, a copy of the report must be sent to Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay to be kept on file for monitoring and for future reference if necessary.</p>

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	<p><b>VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS</b></p> <p>In the interest of safety and in an effort to reduce student discipline problems and vandalism on school buses, video surveillance systems may at any time be placed on school buses under contract to the Boards.</p> <p><b>REFLECTIVE TAPE</b></p> <p>All of the school buses contracted by the Boards have been outfitted with reflective tape to improve visibility.</p> <p><b>FIRST RIDER PROGRAM</b></p> <p>The First Rider Program was developed to help the very young first-time riders of school buses overcome any fears they may have about riding a school bus. This is an opportunity to teach them about school bus safety. The First Rider Program is a community endeavor involving Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay, member School Boards, Thunder Bay Police, and School Bus Operators. It is held in August each year.</p> <p><b>ROUTE AUDITS</b></p> <p>Periodically throughout the school year, route audits are performed by STSTB to ensure compliance with Board Policy. Examples of items that are examined include safety of stops, capacity, distance between stops, condition of roads and turnarounds, route efficiency, length and time of route, and student and road eligibility. Route Audits may result in changes to a route, e.g., stops changed or deleted, times changed; etc. These changes may occur at any time during the school year.</p>
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### **IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS**

Periodically, unusual safety hazards need to be evaluated. This process is done in conjunction with Police Services, STSTB, school bus operators, and drivers. A consensus is reached and a written report on the situation will be kept on file.

### **DRIVER TRAINING**

Not just anyone can get behind the wheel of a school bus. It takes someone quite out of the ordinary to control a vehicle safely, watch traffic and road conditions and at the same time manage a bus full of high-spirited passengers. School bus drivers have an extremely important job and responsibility. From the time the drivers make the first stop on the route until the last passenger disembarks, the safety of someone else's children is in their hands. The legal requirements for becoming a licensed school bus driver are very demanding: between 20 and 40 hours of specialized training are followed by written exams and a road test in the bus.

Driving and criminal records are reviewed, and regular medical examinations are required.

Every driver must complete certified driver improvement courses, as well as know traffic laws and safety procedures thoroughly. Periodic re-examinations keep the school bus driver sharp and safety-wise.

### **RADIOS**

Each school bus is equipped with a two-way radio giving the bus driver contact with their Operators or STSTB as needed.

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### **CROSSING ARMS**

All buses contracted by the Boards are equipped with a crossing arm located at the front of the bus. This bumper mounted crossing arm is extended when the bus is stopped for loading/unloading students forming a barrier so that the students are forced to walk within full view of the driver when crossing in front of the school bus.

### **STROBE LIGHTS**

Some school buses traveling on our highways are equipped with a roof mounted strobe light. The strobe light may be activated only when atmospheric conditions or terrain restrict the visibility of the school bus lamps and signals so as to require the use of the bright strobe light to alert motorists to the presence of the school bus.

### **VISIBLE PARENT**

The parent is required to meet the bus at the designated stop, be visible to the bus driver, or have a responsible sibling or caregiver there when Kindergarten students are being picked up and dropped off.

### **SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**


Member Board's all participate in a safe arrival program. The Safe Arrival Program helps to ensure that all children who leave for school arrive at school safely. Parents' active participation in this program ensures the program responds quickly to an emergency situation.

### **ID TAG PROGRAM**

Each September new Junior Kindergarten students ride the bus to school for the first time. To alleviate any potentially confusing

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	<p>experiences for JK students on their first week of riding the bus, the use of ID TAG identification can be an effective way to improve safety and confidence. This method of identification enables school bus drivers and teachers to ensure that new students riding buses for the first time can be readily identified.</p> <p><b>EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>All schools are required to provide training in emergency evacuation of a school bus to Elementary students by October 31 of each new school year. Should an emergency arise in the p.m. where buses cannot deliver students home each situation will be handled on an individual basis, all pertinent information will be posted/updated on Board’s websites.</p>
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