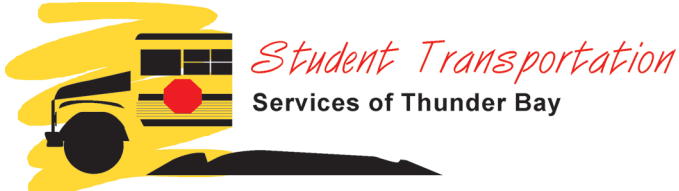
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Statement	At STSTB, the safety, well-being, and appropriate conduct of students are our highest priorities. Creating and maintaining a safe transportation environment is a shared responsibility that requires the cooperation of students, parents/guardians, school staff, transportation operators, and bus drivers. We encourage all stakeholders to work together toward the common goal of providing safe, respectful, and reliable transportation for every student. The following guidelines are intended to support this shared commitment and help foster a positive transportation experience for all.
Practice	STUDENT BEHAVIOUR REPORTING The safety, well-being, and conduct of students are fundamental to maintaining a safe and respectful transportation environment. In accordance with Part XIII: Behaviour, Discipline and Safety of the Ontario Education Act, all school bus drivers are required to report student misconduct to the appropriate school principal as soon as reasonably possible. This requirement applies to individuals who are not board employees but who, in the course of their employment, have regular direct contact with students while providing services to a Board. Reports must be submitted in writing using the STSTB Student Behaviour Report Form (STS-FRM-022) (Appendix A). School bus operators may use their own reporting form if approved by STSTB. Upon receiving a report, the principal is responsible for investigating the incident and determining whether disciplinary

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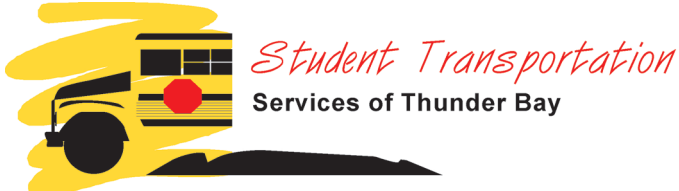
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	action is required. A copy of all behaviour reports must also be provided to Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB) for record-keeping, monitoring, and future reference. ROUTE AUDITS STSTB conducts periodic route audits throughout the school year to ensure compliance with Board policies and transportation standards. Audits may include an assessment of: • Student eligibility • Stop locations and safety • Student capacity • Distance between stops • Route efficiency • Road and turnaround conditions • Route length and travel time As a result of these reviews, route modifications may be required. Changes may include adjustments to stop locations, pickup and drop-off times, routing, or student assignments. Such changes may occur at any time during the school year to maintain safe and efficient transportation services. IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS From time to time, unusual or site-specific safety concerns may arise that require formal review. Hazardous situations are evaluated collaboratively by STSTB, school bus operators, drivers, police services, and other relevant stakeholders. Following the assessment, a consensus is reached
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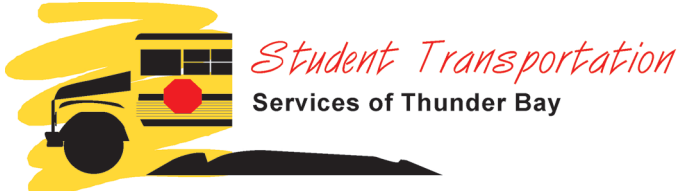
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	regarding the appropriate course of action, and a written report is maintained on file for future reference. <u>STUDENT SAFETY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS</u> FIRST RIDER PROGRAM The First Rider Program helps young, first-time bus riders become familiar with school bus transportation before the start of the school year. The program provides students and families with an opportunity to learn about school bus safety procedures, boarding and exiting practices, rider expectations, and what to expect during their daily journey. By building confidence and reducing anxiety, the program helps students transition successfully to school transportation. The First Rider Program is a collaborative initiative involving STSTB, member school boards, and school bus operators and is typically offered annually during August. CAA BUS PATROLLER PROGRAM The CAA School Bus Patroller Program is a volunteer student leadership initiative designed to enhance safety on school buses. Offered at no cost and administered by CAA Club Group across Ontario, with local coordination provided by STSTB, the program trains responsible older elementary students to assist bus drivers in maintaining a safe, orderly, and respectful transportation environment. Bus Patrollers serve as an additional set of eyes and ears for the
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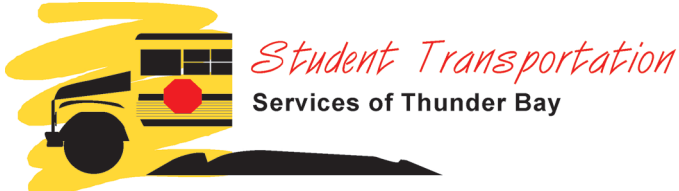
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	driver by identifying and reporting safety concerns and modeling positive behaviour for their peers. Patrollers do not discipline students or direct traffic. Participation is voluntary for elementary schools. Designated school staff receive annual training from CAA, enabling them to train and support student volunteers within their school communities. The program provides students with valuable leadership experience while helping to promote safety, responsibility, teamwork, and positive citizenship. CAA FOOT PATROLLER PROGRAM The CAA Foot Patroller Program is a volunteer student leadership initiative that promotes student pedestrian safety while travelling to and from school. Offered at no cost by CAA Club Group across Ontario, with local coordination provided by STSTB, the program trains responsible elementary students to serve as role models while encouraging safe walking practices in designated school areas. Foot Patrollers support younger students, reinforce pedestrian safety habits, and help foster a culture of safety and responsibility. Patrollers do not direct traffic or perform the duties of crossing guards. Participation is voluntary for elementary schools. Designated staff receive annual training from CAA, enabling them to recruit, train, and support student Foot Patrollers.
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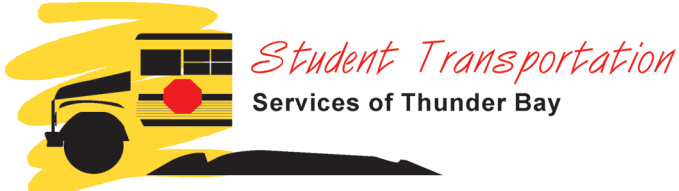
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	Through the program, students develop leadership, teamwork, communication, and responsibility skills while contributing to a safer school community. WAYFINDERS ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL PROGRAM The Wayfinders Active School Travel Program is a student-led initiative that promotes safe, active transportation for elementary students travelling to and from school. The program empowers older elementary students to model safe pedestrian behaviours and encourage active transportation within their school communities. Wayfinders wear high-visibility safety vests, follow designated walking routes, and serve as positive role models for younger students while helping increase driver awareness of student pedestrians. Participants receive Street Safety Training that includes traffic awareness, anti-bullying strategies, and basic first aid. Schools designate a Wayfinders Coordinator to oversee recruitment, training, and ongoing support. Safe walking routes are identified and reviewed in collaboration with STSTB. The program encourages healthy, active lifestyles while helping students develop leadership skills and promote a culture of safety within their school communities. <u>DRIVER TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS</u> School bus drivers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of students each day. Safely operating a large vehicle while monitoring road conditions, traffic, weather, and student
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	behaviour requires specialized knowledge, training, and professionalism. The requirements for obtaining a school bus driver's licence in Ontario are rigorous and include: • Specialized classroom and practical training • Written examinations • A road test conducted in a school bus • Regular medical assessments • Criminal record screening • Review of driving history In addition, drivers are required to participate in ongoing professional development and certified driver improvement training to maintain their skills and stay current with transportation regulations and safety procedures. <u>VEHICLE SAFETY FEATURES AND TECHNOLOGY</u> VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS To enhance student safety and help discourage misconduct and vandalism, buses operating under contract to the member Boards may be equipped with video surveillance systems. Video recordings may be used to investigate incidents, support student discipline processes, and assist in maintaining a safe transportation environment. REFLECTIVE TAPE All school buses operated under contract to the member Boards are equipped with reflective tape.
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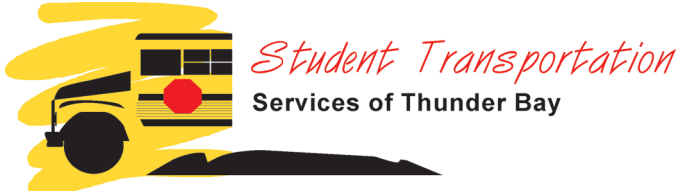
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	Reflective markings improve vehicle visibility during low-light conditions and adverse weather, helping other motorists recognize the presence of a school bus from a greater distance. CROSSING ARMS All contracted school buses are equipped with front-mounted crossing arms. When students are loading or unloading and the bus is stopped, the crossing arm extends outward to create a barrier in front of the bus. This requires students to walk a safe distance ahead of the vehicle, ensuring they remain in the driver's line of sight when crossing. STROBE LIGHTS Some school buses operating on highways are equipped with roof-mounted strobe lights. These lights may be activated when weather conditions, lighting conditions, or terrain reduce visibility and additional warning is required to alert motorists to the presence of a school bus. TWO-WAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS All school buses are equipped with two-way radio communications or equivalent communication technology. This equipment allows drivers to maintain communication with their operator and STSTB when necessary, supporting efficient operations and timely response to transportation concerns or emergencies.
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	GPS TRACKING SYSTEMS All school buses contracted by the member Boards are equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. GPS tracking enhances student transportation safety by providing real-time vehicle location information, allowing operators and STSTB to monitor bus movements, respond more effectively to emergencies, verify route performance, and support timely communication regarding delays or service disruptions. GPS data also assists in route planning, operational oversight, and incident investigations when required, helping to ensure the safe, reliable, and efficient transportation of students. PARENT APP The Chipmunk Parent App is a secure transportation communication tool available to authorized parents and guardians. Using real-time GPS information from STSTB school buses, the app provides estimated arrival times, bus location information, and notifications regarding delays, cancellations, and other transportation alerts. By providing timely and accurate transportation information, the Chipmunk Parent App enhances communication with families and supports the safe and efficient transportation of students.
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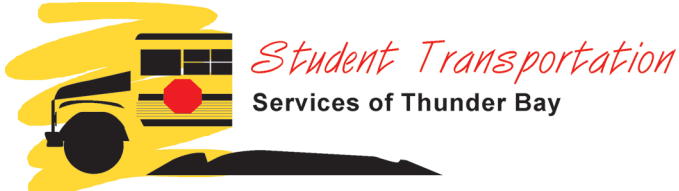
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<u>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PARENT PARTNERSHIPS</u> EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES All elementary students receive annual school bus evacuation training, which must be completed by October 31 of each school year. This training helps students understand how to respond safely in the event of an emergency and familiarizes them with evacuation procedures and emergency exits. SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM All member school boards participate in a Safe Arrival Program designed to ensure students arrive safely at school. The success of the program relies on active participation by parents and guardians. Prompt reporting of student absences enables schools to quickly identify and respond to potential concerns or emergency situations. VISIBLE PARENT REQUIREMENT FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS To support the safety of young learners, a parent/guardian, designated caregiver, or responsible older sibling approved by the school principal, must be present and visible to the bus driver when Kindergarten students are dropped off at their designated stop. This requirement helps ensure students are safely received and supervised at the end of their journey.	
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	KID TAG PROGRAM Each September, many Junior Kindergarten students ride the school bus for the first time. To support a safe and positive introduction to student transportation, STSTB utilizes a Kindergarten ID Tag Program. Identification tags assist drivers and school staff in quickly identifying new riders and ensuring students board and exit the correct bus. The program helps reduce confusion, enhance safety, and build confidence for students and families during the critical first days of school transportation.
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