Student Transportation		Practice Document #: STS-SAF-004.05	
Services of Thunder Bay		Safety – First Rider Program	
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Statement	The First Rider program has been designed for very young first- time school bus riders. This fun learning experience helps answer children's questions and calm concerns they may have about riding the bus to school. The program is designed to teach school bus safety to first time bus riders.
Practice	The First Rider Bus Ride Day is held on a Saturday in late August before the start of each school year. It is a cooperative effort between STSTB, consortium member Boards, and local School Bus Operators. Each session lasts approximately 30 minutes with staffing coordinated by our bus operators.
	Prior to the First Rider Bus Ride Day, children and their parents/guardians are asked to watch our First Rider educational video found online at www.ststb.ca which helps explain school bus safety and prepare first time school bus riders on how to ride the school bus safely.
	Parents/Guardians must register their child for the First Rider Bus Ride Day as ride times are scheduled with a limited number of children riding per 30-minute session. Registration is open online or through the phone number listed at www.ststb.ca between Monday and Friday the week prior to the First Rider Bus Ride Day.
	On the First Rider Bus Ride Day, children arrive for their scheduled time to board a school bus and go on a 20-minute bus ride where instructors ask and answer questions about the school bus. Arriving back at the starting point, children receive a snack and a certificate for being a Safe First Rider.
	Additional school buses, including wheelchair vehicles are parked

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at the site and parents/guardians are encouraged to take their children on board to explore.	
Dates, times, location, and additional information can be found at www.ststb.ca	

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