

2004: SB 20

MEMORANDUM TO: Senior Business Officials
Transportation Managers

FROM: Drew Nameth

DATE: October 18, 2004

SUBJECT: School Bus Safety Week

This year school bus safety week runs from October 18 to October 22, 2004. It is estimated that boards will transport approximately 800,000 students in 2004-05 across the province using approximately 17,000 school purpose vehicles. On a daily basis, students are estimated to travel a total of 1.8 million kilometres.

The government has announced that it is introducing changes to improve school bus safety by ensuring that:

- all new school buses will include a safety-crossing arm to prevent children from walking into the bus driver's blind spot at the front of the bus;
- all school buses will have decals indicating a maximum \$2,000 fine for a first offense of passing a stopped school bus with flashing overhead lights; and
- vehicle owners may be charged if their vehicles are reported to have illegally passed a stopped school bus.

Additional information on the Ministry of Transportation announcement is available on the web at <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/>.

I am also writing to inform you that the Ministry of Transportation is making available the attached pamphlet on school bus safety awareness, protocol and guidelines. If boards require copies of the attached pamphlet, they may contact the Ministry of Transportation's Road Safety Marketing Office at (416) 235-3658.

The pamphlet will also be available in PDF format on the ministry's extranet site for viewing by the Board officials and school bus operators. The URL is <http://transport.edu.gov.on.ca>. Please be reminded of the user ID and password to access the site:

User ID: transportation
Password: accountability

Original signed by

Drew Nameth
Director
Business Services Branch

Attachment

cc. Directors of Education
Rick Donaldson, OSBA
Sue Lo, MTO
John Lefebvre, MTO
Allan Smith, MTO