



Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services

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School Bus Safety Week is October 22-26, 2018

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) is pleased to announce that next week is **School Bus Safety Week**. Celebrated province-wide, the third week of October is an annual opportunity to shine the spotlight on school bus safety. The iconic yellow school bus is a critical part of the education system and we appreciate the work undertaken by those who serve our students each day.

Throughout Oxford, Elgin and Middlesex counties and in the city of London, almost 50,000 students are transported to and from school daily. Beyond those who utilize the service to get to and from school, many students use school buses to travel on field trips or participate in athletic events.

School bus safety week provides an opportunity to talk about the overall importance of safety. Whether you have kids travelling on a school bus or are a motorist in a school zone, everyone benefits from an increased focus on road safety, obeying posted speed limits and carefully observing those engaged in active travel, be it walking or wheeling. Road safety in our communities is vital to overall citizen satisfaction.

STS would like to remind everyone how critical it is to come to a complete stop while the red signal-lights of a school bus are flashing. There is a maximum fine of \$2,000 and 6 demerit points under the Highway Traffic Act for vehicle owners who choose to disobey the law and illegally pass a stopped school bus.

Of equal importance to school bus safety around the bus is the conduct of students on board the vehicles. Please talk to your kids about expected on-board behavior. Simple rules make for a more enjoyable shared-ride experience – backpacks on the lap or under the seat, remain seated for the entire ride and keep voice levels down so the school bus driver can concentrate.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, we will celebrate **School Bus Driver Appreciation Day**. Parents, guardians and school staff are encouraged to recognize their school bus drivers and monitors with a simple thank you or other acknowledgement of a job well done, often under complex conditions.

During School Bus Safety Week, watch for social media posts and use #SBSW18 to participate in the conversation. Check out STS's Facebook page and Twitter feed for safety messages to start the conversation.

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Carol Rossi at 519-649-1160 x 221 or crossi@mybigyellowbus.ca