



Media Release

Immediate Release: October 17, 2019

2019 School Bus Safety Week: October 21-25, 2019

(Prescott) – Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), the transportation consortium for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB), is joining other transportation consortia and school transportation companies across the country, in promoting the importance of school bus safety during School Bus Safety Week.

In Ontario, over 830,000 children and teenagers ride safely, in over 18,000 school buses, each day. Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario operates nearly 800 school vehicles, which transport 33,000 students, across districts in Eastern Ontario daily.

As the school year settles in, STEO makes use of School Bus Safety Week to remind motorists to STOP – in the name of love. As students of all ages make their way on their journeys to school – whether by bus, on foot or two wheels – we play a special role in keeping them safe by staying alert and engaged on road and stopping at school crossings and for school buses that we meet along the way. So please don't break our hearts, remember to STOP 😊

STOP FOR SCHOOL BUS RED FLASHING LIGHTS. We need the support of all motorists while buses perform their daily routes. School buses display red flashing lights and a stop sign that is extended from the side of the bus, to alert motorists to stop. The law requires motorists to stop in both directions for a school bus with the red lights flashing.

PLAN AHEAD AND DON'T RUSH. The safety and wellbeing of students is our number one priority. No issue is so urgent that motorists cannot take the time to wait for a school bus as it loads and unloads children. To support safe driving around school buses, we ask motorists to schedule additional time for morning/afternoon traffic delays, especially as winter weather approaches.

OBEY THE DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS. Please resist temptation and leave your phone alone during your commute. Driving requires your full attention. If you must use your phone, pull over to a safe place away from traffic.

Bus operators throughout the region will be conducting activities in conjunction with local schools in support of School Bus Safety Week. Police departments throughout the region will also be diligent in ensuring drivers are following all rules and laws pertaining to bus safety.

SPECIAL NOTE: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Without a doubt, professional school bus drivers are an extraordinary and talented group of individuals who embrace a tremendous responsibility to ensure kids remain safe and out of harm's way each day. Please take a moment to thank your driver for the awesome and important work they do! A small gesture of kindness can go a long way.

To obtain additional information about school bus safety, parents and students can access STEO's website at www.steo.ca; call us at 855-925-0022; or email to transportation@steo.ca