



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 19, 2018

**Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario
School Bus Safety Week October 22 – 26, 2018**

(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 Ontario, in promoting the importance of school bus safety during School Bus Safety Week!

In Ontario, over 800,000 children and teenagers ride safely, in over 18,000 school buses, each day. STEO operates approximately 800 school vehicles, which transport 33,000 students, across districts in Eastern Ontario. During bus safety week, STEO is reaching out with some tips and strategies, to help keep our students safe on the road.

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, motorists are asked to schedule additional time for morning traffic delays.

OBEY THE DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS. Please 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.

The team at STEO offers the following safety tips to students as they get on and off the bus:

- Be at the bus stop in plenty of time to avoid having to rush to catch the bus
- Dress with the day's weather conditions in mind
- Always follow the driver's instructions for how and when to cross the street
- Always remain in the direct view of the bus driver
- Always cross in front of the bus and only when the bus driver signals that it is safe to do so
- Be alert to the traffic and look both ways when crossing the road
- Never turn back to get anything you left on the bus or dropped on the ground

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 pertaining to bus safety.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day. Please take a moment to thank your driver for the awesome and important work they do!

To obtain additional information about school bus safety, parents and students can access STEO's website at www.steo.ca or call us at 1-855-925-0022 or 613-925-0022.