

Ministry of Education

School Business Support Branch
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Ministère de l'Éducation

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2017: SB12

MEMORANDUM TO: Senior Business Officials

FROM: Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

DATE: June 1, 2017

SUBJECT: School Bus Rider Safety Training and Resources

The Ontario Auditor General's 2015 Annual Report included a value-for-money audit of student transportation. The report included several recommendations for the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transportation, and student transportation consortia. The Ministry of Education takes these recommendations seriously as student safety is a top priority. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transportation and the three audited consortia have been working collaboratively to address the recommendations.

Standardized School Bus Rider Safety Training

To support the sector in addressing the Auditor General's recommendations for standardized school bus safety training, the Ministry of Education requested the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) to acquire services to develop and implement school bus rider safety videos and on-site school bus safety training. OECM has recently signed an agreement with Intertrain Incorporated as the successful vendor that will be providing these services.

The ministry would like to thank the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) Transportation Committee for their input and feedback that assisted OECM in developing the scope of work.

Safety Videos

Three school bus rider safety videos targeting specific groups within the elementary panel will be available in both English and French at the beginning of the 2017–18 school year:

- First-time riders and their families;
- Students from JK to grade 3; and
- Students from grade 4 to grade 8.

These videos will cover the general school bus safety topics such as waiting for the school bus, what to do when the bus arrives, getting on and off the school bus, and riding the school bus. Other age-specific and audience-specific topics will include roles and responsibilities, student behaviour and bullying.

These videos will be openly accessible through the OECM website. We encourage all school boards to take advantage of this free resource and incorporate these standardized videos into their school bus rider safety training practices. Details on how to access these videos will be communicated to the sector this summer.

On-Site Safety Training

Following the release of the three videos, OECM and a team of representatives from the OASBO Transportation Committee will work with Intertrain to develop standardized on-site school bus safety training for elementary students. These sessions are expected to be available to school boards in the 2018-19 school year. More information will be provided when available.

Student Behaviour Resources

Appropriate student behaviour on the school bus is an important part of school bus safety. The ministry has recently released a resource for promoting and supporting positive student behaviour on the school bus. Here is a link to access [the fact sheet](#). Actively promoting and supporting appropriate student behaviour contributes to a positive school climate. We encourage you to share this resource with your school administrators, student transportation service providers and school bus drivers.

A safe and accepting learning environment is essential for student achievement and well-being. The school bus should be seen as an extension of the school environment. For more information and resources on making Ontario's school environments safe and accepting, visit ontario.ca/acceptingschools.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sandy Chan, Manager, Transportation and Cooperative Services Unit, at (416) 325-2464 or sandy.chan@ontario.ca.

Original signed by

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cc: Directors of Education
Transportation Managers