

## Key Messages

This electronic toolkit is a road safety resource intended to educate and inform Ontarians on the importance of school bus safety.

The contents of this toolkit are shareable.

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It's important for motorists, parents, caregivers and students to know how to keep children safe when they are on and around school buses.



### Safe Behaviour for Drivers:

Drivers need to pay attention, leave space, and be alert when approaching or passing a school bus.

- The law requires all motorists to stop for school buses when the bus is stopped and its overhead red signal lights are flashing.
- Effective September 1, 2020, all motorists must stop for school buses when the bus is stopped and the stop arm is out<sup>1</sup>. It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus that has a stop arm extended, regardless of whether the bus's overhead red lights are flashing.
- Be patient and extra vigilant behind the wheel anytime you see a school bus.
  - Assume a child might run out at any moment.
- Be courteous to school bus operators, give them room and let them change lanes when they need to.
- When driving on a road **without** a median strip:
  - Drivers travelling in both directions must stop for a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing and/or stop arm out
  - When you approach the bus from the front, stop at a safe distance to let children get on or off the bus and cross the road
  - Don't move forward until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop-arm is closed or the bus begins to move.



# School Bus Safety

- When driving on a road **with** a median:
  - Traffic coming from the opposite direction is not required to stop.



- Remember school buses are required to stop for all railway crossings.

**Note<sup>1</sup>:** These systems are designed to work in combination to increase visibility when signalling drivers to stop for a stopped school bus on the roadway. However, it is an offence not to stop for a stopped school bus with either the overhead red lights flashing or the stop arm out.



## Pedestrian Crossovers and School Crossings

- Drivers - including cyclists - must stop and yield the whole roadway at pedestrian crossovers, school crossings and other locations where there is a crossing guard.
  - Only when pedestrians and school crossing guards have crossed and are safely on the sidewalk can drivers and cyclists proceed.

A school crossing is any pedestrian crossing where a school crossing guard is present and displaying a school crossing stop sign.

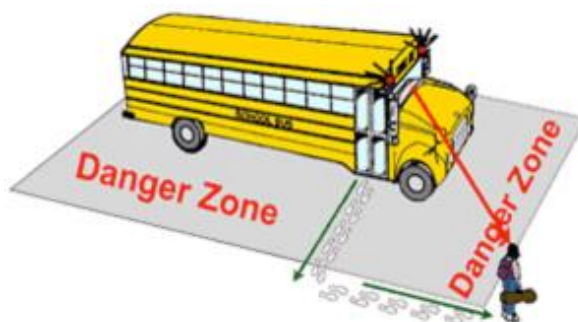




### Safe Behaviour for Students

Parents, help keep your children safe by talking about bus safety with them.

- Be at the bus stop before the bus comes.
- Wait in a safe place well back from the edge of the road - don't play in ditches or on snow banks.
- Stay out of the **danger zone**. If you can touch the bus, you're too close.
  - Use 10 giant steps to take you out of the **danger zone**, and make sure you and the bus driver can see each other.



- Always cross the road in front of the bus, never behind.
- Look all ways and wait for the driver to signal before you cross in front of a bus.
- Walk at least 10 big steps from the front of the bus.
- Enter or exit the bus in single file. Never push or shove.
- Walk - never run - across the road.
- **Never** stop to pick up anything that you may have dropped in the **danger zone**. Ask an adult or the bus driver to help.

### School Zone Safety

Safety in school zones is everyone's responsibility. Here are a few reminders for students and parents/guardians:

- Parents and guardians must respect their child's school safety measures for dropping off and picking up their children at school.
- Respect posted speed limits, and designated drop-off and pick-up areas within the school zone.
- School Travel Planning – For students walking and wheeling to school, parents may want to practice the route with their children to familiarize with the route.

## By the numbers

**836,032**

Each school day,  
836,032 students  
travel in a school  
vehicle in Ontario

**1.6%**

School vehicle fatalities and  
injuries represented 1.6 percent  
of total fatalities and injuries  
in 2017

**70x**

Students are about 70 times  
more likely to get to school  
safely when travelling in a  
school bus rather than by car

## Penalties

There are serious consequences for drivers who fail to stop for a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing and/or stop-arm out.

- First offence: \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points.
- Each following offence: \$1,000 to \$4,000, six demerit points and possible jail time (up to six months).
- Vehicle owners can be charged if their vehicle illegally passes a stopped school bus, even if they weren't driving.

## Digital Publication

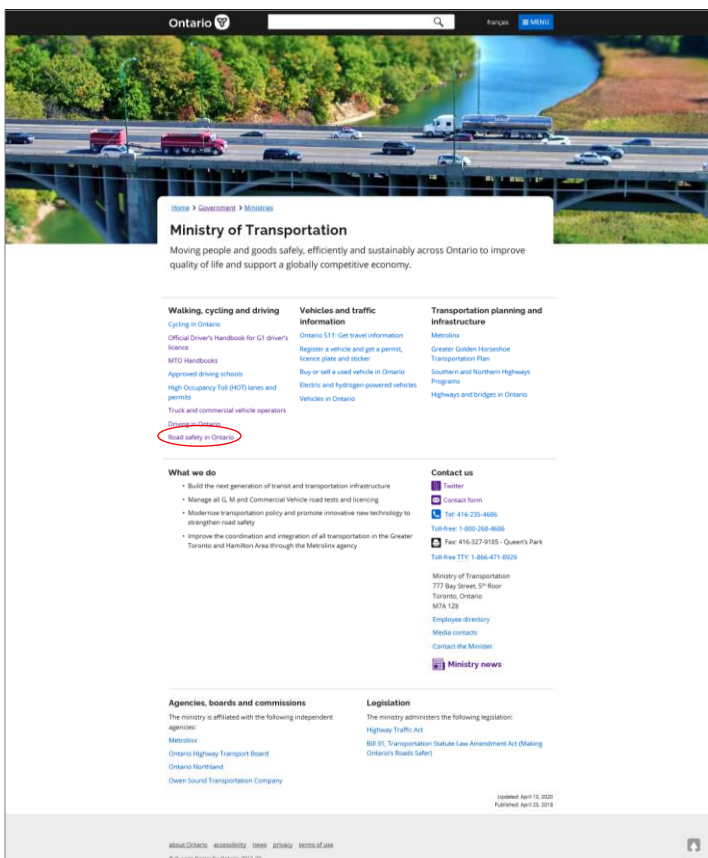
Download from the links below:

[School bus safety rules](#)

[Stop - School bus](#)



## Website




- 1 Visit [Ontario.ca/transportation](https://www.ontario.ca/transportation)
- 2 Select [Road Safety in Ontario](#)
- 3 Go to [School Bus Safety](#)

# School Bus Safety

## Social Media

Re-tweet, like and share on your social media channels:

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<b>Release Date</b>	January 6, 2020
<b>Social Copy</b>	<p>Kids are back in school today after the holiday break. Drivers remember failure to stop for a school bus with its upper red-light flashing is \$400-\$2,000 and six demerit points.</p> <p>Learn more: <a href="http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml">http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml</a></p> <p>#SchoolBusSafety #BackToSchool</p>
<b>Shareable</b>	
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1214170106072354816">https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1214170106072354816</a>

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<b>Release Date</b>	October 25, 2019
<b>Social Copy</b>	<p>As School Bus Safety Week comes to an end, we encourage you to know and follow the rules. #DYK Failure to stop for a school bus with its upper red-light flashing results in a \$400-\$2,000 fine and six demerit points. Learn more: <a href="http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml">http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml</a></p>
<b>Shareable</b>	
<b>Link</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1187723129562513415">https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1187723129562513415</a>

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# School Bus Safety

**Release Date** October 23, 2019

**Social Copy** We're keeping students safer with measures that will give municipalities the tools they need to target drivers who threaten the safety of children on school buses. More info:  
<https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2019/04/ontario-announces-measures-to-increase-school-bus-safety.html>  
 #SchoolBusSafetyWeek

**Shareable**



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1186983196707229697>

**Release Date** October 21, 2019

**Social Copy** This week is School Bus Safety Week! Every school day, more than 837,000 Ontario students travel in about 16,000 school vehicles. Help keep the students safe by being extra cautious when approaching a school bus.  
<http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml>  
 #SchoolBusSafetyWeek

**Shareable**

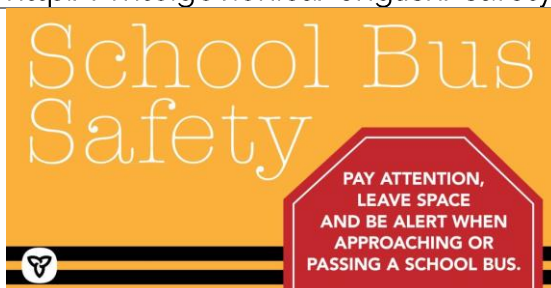


**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1186341560461516800>

**Release Date** September 25, 2019

**Social Copy** Pay attention, leave space, be alert and follow all the rules when approaching school buses.  
 #SchoolBusSafety #BackToSchool  
<http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml>

**Shareable**



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1176844082313924608>

# School Bus Safety

**Release Date** September 7, 2019

**Social Copy** Sharing is caring, let us all share the road. Drivers and cyclists must wait for pedestrians to cross the entire roadway. Learn more: <http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/pedestrian-safety.shtml>

#PedestrianSafety

**Shareable**

Drivers and cyclists must wait for pedestrians to cross the entire roadway at all school crossings and crosswalks



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1170313301831630852>

**Release Date** September 5, 2019

**Social Copy** Attn drivers: know the rules. The fine for failing to stop for a school bus with its upper red-light flashing is \$400-\$2,000 and six demerit points. Learn more: <http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml>

#SchoolBusSafety #BackToSchool

**Shareable**

Back to school safety tip: Know the rules



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1169603646784462849>

**Release Date** September 4, 2019

**Social Copy** Attn drivers: Many students across Ontario are back in school this week. Please drive with extra caution around school zones. More info: <http://ontario.ca/document/official-mto-drivers-handbook/signs>

#BackToSchool

**Shareable**

Back to school safety tip: Drive safe in school zones



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1169339525656694785>



# School Bus Safety

**Release Date** September 3, 2019

**Social Copy** Every school day in Ontario, 830,000+ students travel in a school vehicle. We're keeping students safer with measures that will give municipalities the tools they need to target drivers who threaten the safety of children on school buses.  
Learn more: <https://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2019/04/ontario-announces-measures-to-increase-school-bus-safety.html>

**Shareable**



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1168984539210952705>

**Release Date** September 3, 2019

**Social Copy** It's back to school season! As students prepare to head back to class, please remember to pay attention, leave space and follow all rules when approaching school zones and school buses. Let's work together to keep our kids safe.  
Details: <http://mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/school-bus-safety.shtml>  
#BackToSchool

**Shareable**



**Link** <https://twitter.com/ONtransport/status/1168947019609706498>

Ministry of Transportation social media accounts:

[twitter.com/ONtransport](https://twitter.com/ONtransport)

[facebook.com/OntarioTransportation](https://facebook.com/OntarioTransportation)

[linkedin.com/company/ontario-ministry-of-transportation](https://linkedin.com/company/ontario-ministry-of-transportation)