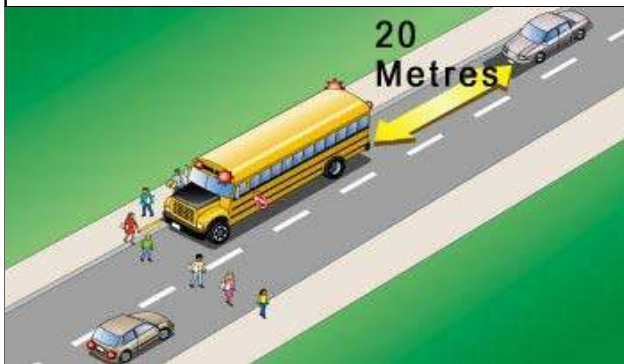


# Traffic Safety for Back to School



School buses transport almost three million Canadian children each day of the school year. Most injuries happen outside the bus which is why it is so important for children and motorists to take extra care around school buses and safety zones.

## Drivers - always stop for the bus



- motorists travelling in both directions must stop when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing, unless there is a median separating lanes of traffic
- a flashing stop arm will swing out while passengers are boarding or leaving the bus.
- once all passengers have boarded, the STOP arm will fold away. Do not start moving until the red lights have stopped flashing and the bus begins to move.

## PENALTIES FOR NOT STOPPING

**First offence: \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points**

**Each subsequent offence: \$1,000 to \$4,000, six demerit points and possible jail time up to six months**

You can help make our roads safe by reporting the dangerous and illegal passing of school buses with the following tips.

1. Report the incident to police immediately by phone or in person at the nearest police station.
2. Provide the make, model, colour and licence number of the vehicle.
3. Provide the location, date and time of the incident.
4. Provide a description of the driver if possible.
5. Was the vehicle being passed a "chrome yellow" school bus with the words "School Bus" at both the front and rear of the bus?
6. Was it a small or a large school bus?
7. Was the school bus stopped?
8. Were the upper red lights of the school bus flashing while it was stopped?
9. Were there passengers boarding or exiting the school bus?
10. Did the vehicle pass the school bus from the front or from behind the bus?

**Parents can help keep their children safe by reminding them of the importance of school zone safety. Information is available at this link: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/schoolbus/smarts.htm>**

## Traffic Signs Related to Schools and School Bus Safety (colour of signs may vary)



<p>This sign warns that you are coming to a school zone. Slow down, drive with extra caution, and watch for children.</p>	<p>The speed limit in this zone is lower during school hours. Observe the reduced speed limit shown when the yellow lights are flashing.</p>	<p>This sign warns of a school crossing. Watch for children and follow the directions of the crossing guard.</p>	<p>This sign warns that you are coming to a school bus stop of which you may not have a clear view. Slow down, drive with extra caution.</p>	<p>This sign informs drivers approaching from both directions they must stop for a school bus when its signal lights are flashing.</p>
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Prepared by C. Halliday, Sept 2011