School Zone and School Bus Driver Safety Checklist

Toolbox talk · Canadian employers with drivers

HSE ADVISOR CANADA
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Employer / company: _____ Driver / crew briefed: _____

Route(s) covered: _____ Delivered by: _____

Date: _____ Next briefing (late October): _____

1. SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS

PROVINCE	RULE	CONFIRM ON YOUR ROUTES
Ontario	Municipal bylaw sets 30–40 km/h in posted school zones. The exact limit is on the sign, not fixed province-wide.	
British Columbia	30 km/h in posted school zones, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. on school days.	
Alberta	Playground zones: 30 km/h every day, 8:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset, school in session or not.	
Other province	Confirm the posted school/playground zone rule for this route before assuming it matches the above.	

> The posted sign governs, not this table. Confirm the actual signage on each regular route, especially routes that changed since the last briefing.

2. SCHOOL BUS STOP-ARM LAW

ITEM	CONFIRMED	NOTES
Driver knows the trigger: overhead red lights flashing, stop arm extended		
Driver knows to stop from either direction, and stay stopped until the lights stop or the bus moves		
Driver knows the Ontario median exception (HTA s. 175: opposite-direction traffic on a highway with a median strip is not required to stop). In British Columbia, vehicles in all lanes must stop		
Driver knows the fine and demerit point consequences in this province		
Driver knows never to pass on the right of a stopped bus		

> Ontario (HTA s. 175): $400–$2,000 fine, 6 demerit points on a first offence. British Columbia (Motor Vehicle Act s. 149): $368 fine, 3 demerit points. Confirm the equivalent figures for your province before relying on these.

3. RAILWAY CROSSINGS

ITEM	CONFIRMED	NOTES
Driver understands school buses stop at every railway crossing, gated or not, and this is not a malfunction		
Driver maintains extra following distance behind a school bus approaching a crossing		
Driver briefed that a bus's stop, at a crossing, can happen with no visible train		

4. DAWN AND DUSK GLARE

ITEM	CONFIRMED	NOTES
Sun visor positioned correctly for low-angle morning and afternoon sun		
Sunglasses kept in the vehicle for glare hours		
Following distance increased during low-sun hours near school zones		
Driver flagged that the 3–7 p.m. window carries the highest child pedestrian injury risk, and that this window shifts into dusk as fall goes on		
Driver aware that daylight time ends on the first Sunday in November in most provinces, moving sunset about an hour earlier overnight. Alberta (from 2026), Yukon, Saskatchewan and most of British Columbia do not change clocks		

5. REPORTING

ITEM	CONFIRMED	NOTES
Driver knows how and where to report a near-miss in a school zone, not just a collision		

A near-miss log tells you where to focus before something worse happens. Review it monthly while school is in session.

DRIVER SIGNATURE

DATE

DELIVERED BY (SUPERVISOR)

DATE

Want help applying this?

Our consultants (CRSP Certified · COR & ISO 45001 Lead Auditors) can adapt this to your workplace or review your safety program with you.

(647) 620-5278 · **info@hseadvisor.ca** · **hseadvisor.ca/contact**

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