

Back-to-School Fleet Driver Safety Checklist

September 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 Oct, before DST):

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 this year.

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 physical-median exception (opposite-direction traffic on a divided road is not required to 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, stay back at least 5 metres. 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 clocks fall back November 1, 2026, moving sunset roughly an hour earlier overnight (Saskatchewan does not observe the change)		

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 through September and October.

DRIVER SIGNATURE

DATE

DELIVERED BY (SUPERVISOR)

DATE