



Ontario School Bus Association

About Us

The Ontario School Bus Association (OSBA) is a non-profit association providing advocacy and education services for the owners of school bus fleets across Ontario for over 60 years. OSBA is the authoritative voice on school transportation in Ontario, fostering partnerships with government, school boards and transportation consortia, addressing the issues important to its members and ensuring over 800,000 children are transported to school safely, securely, on-time and ready to learn each day.

OSBA's vision of safe and sustainable student transportation is built on the wealth of experience and the professional approach of OSBA, whose members and drivers are supported through a variety of training programs. The school bus industry maintains an outstanding safety record as substantiated by Transport Canada. Our commitment to quality and safety spans the school bus industry.

Competitive Procurement

What We Want

The current competitive procurement process in Ontario requires improvement. OSBA accepts a competitive procurement process for school bus services that is fair, open and transparent, and has outlined how the Government of Ontario can improve this process:

- development of standard procurement documents and processes that focus on safety, quality and value for money;
- open, transparent scoring and decision-making in the procurement process; and
- establishing a neutral fairness commissioner.

What the Issues Are

The competitive procurement process for school buses has been plagued by inconsistency, which has led to questionable procurement practices that aren't transparent, fair or accountable to operators, drivers, students and taxpayers. As a result, these practices have resulted in legal action against the government.

OSBA believes that improving the competitive procurement process is vital to the long-term health of the industry, as well as ensuring the safety of Ontario's students. OSBA remains committed to engaging in constructive discussions with our customers and the government to find a solution to this issue.



How Our Solutions Will Help

Competitive procurement is an embedded process in Ontario’s education sector, and broader public sector. Establishing a standardized competitive procurement process that is fair, open and transparent will ensure top value for money for government and taxpayers and will guarantee that children throughout Ontario get to school safely, reliably and on-time.

Funding Accountability

What We Want

While there have been modest increases to school transportation budgets, these have not been passed along to the people who provide this importance service: the owners and operators of school bus fleets across Ontario and most importantly, their drivers. OSBA is advocating for more open and transparent funding that reflects the realities of transporting children to and from school safely.

What the Issues Are

OSBA believes that an easy first step in addressing this issue would be to update the Ministry of Education data on the financial cost of providing school bus service in Ontario to accurately represent the current needs of the system. The government’s data on the costs of providing school bus services was last updated in 2007 – an update is required to reflect the current economic realities of delivering children to school safely and on time.

How Our Solutions Will Help

Compensating those that deliver these vital services fairly will help to ensure the long-term viability of the school bus industry in Ontario, and will make certain that high quality and professional drivers remain behind the wheel and top quality safety standards are upheld. Families and their children deserve nothing less.

Contact

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