

Year in Review

OSBA's TOP 10+



2017 Accomplishments for OSBA Members

1. **\$60 Million for Driver Retention and Recruitment** – As a result of many conversations, meetings, advocacy and OSBA's public affairs and public engagement campaign "Get our Kids to School", OSBA has helped to secure a \$60 million investment from the provincial government for the next three school terms to support the recruitment and retention of professional school bus drivers over the course of the 2018/19 minimum wage increases.
2. **Advocacy and Issue Management** – On behalf of all OSBA members regarding various industry projects and issues such as:
 - **New Vision for Student Transportation** (Ministry of Education) – through representation on a Transportation Reference Group committee and stakeholder engagement sessions, OSBA is providing valuable input, feedback and recommendations regarding how to create sustainable student transportation for the future.
 - **Phase 2 of Campbell Report** - This Committee is an opportunity for OSBA, the school board sector and industry representatives to freely and openly share ideas to address standardization opportunities identified by former Justice Colin Campbell in the *Student Transportation Competitive Procurement Review Report (STCPR)*. The desired outcome is a leading practices resource document on standardization.
3. **Government meetings and conversations** with Ministry of Education staff, Ministry of Transportation staff and many others, advocating on behalf of all OSBA members, particularly regarding the need for:
 - (a) A fair, open and transparent competitive procurement process.
 - (b) Appropriate and sustainable funding to maintain safe, viable student transportation services in Ontario.
 - (c) More open and accountable flow through of funding to school bus contractors.
4. **Individual Safety and Legislative Consultation** - research and assistance to members on a wide variety of issues such as vehicle safety standards and maintenance, traffic regulations, alcohol and drug zero tolerance legislation, MTO enforcement, employee licensing issues arising from complications at DriveTest Centres, delays due to medical issues or background checks, school bus hours of service and daily inspections, the D250 manufacturing standard, school bus occupant restraints and seat belts.
5. **Criminal Background Check Service** – OSBA worked extensively with the Ministry of Transportation to support members regarding changes to the criminal background check process for drivers' licences. OSBA launched its On-Line Criminal Background Check Service for Class B and E Licences as an alternative to obtaining in-person checks.
6. **On-line Webinars** – Highly informative, quarterly webinars covering in excess of 20 safety and regulatory topics impacting bus operator and consortia operations.
7. **Educational Workshops**, business sessions, keynote presentations and networking opportunities provided at the annual Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE) conference and trade show.
8. **Bi-weekly, On-line Newsletter** with significant news, views and regulatory information not found anywhere else!
9. **School Bus Ontario Magazine** – Full of comprehensive, educational articles distributed to over 6000 relevant industry contacts.
10. **Stop Arm Cameras** – OSBA worked with MTO to obtain revisions to the Highway Traffic Act which will enable the use of video evidence to prosecute drivers who fail to stop for school buses with their overhead lights flashing and stop arm extended. OSBA is continuing to support the development of regulations needed to establish the use of stop arm camera video evidence in court.
11. **Hand-held Radio Exemption** – OSBA ensured the voice of student transportation was heard during consultations with MTO on the potential expiry of the hand-held radio exemption Dec. 31, 2017. OSBA's input and feedback helped secure a 3-year extension, with efforts continuing to pursue a permanent exemption for school buses and school purpose vehicles.
12. **Eight Lamp (Amber-Red) Warning Light System** – Continued communications with MTO regarding the adoption of the eight-lamp (amber and red) warning light system in Ontario.
13. **Electric School Bus Pilot** – OSBA worked with MTO to support the development of an \$8M pilot program to evaluate the use of electric school buses in Ontario.