

# Year in Review

## OSBA's TOP 15

### 2016 Accomplishments for OSBA Members

1. **Numerous** 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.
  - (d) Appropriate school bus driver wages.
2. **Criminal Background Check Service** – OSBA worked extensively with the Ministry of Transportation to support members regarding the surprise 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 a member alternative to obtaining in-person checks under the new licencing process.
3. **Daily Safety and Legislative Consultation** and assistance to members on a wide variety of issues such as vehicle safety standards and maintenance, traffic regulations, MTO enforcement, as well as individual employee driver licensing issues arising from DriveTest Centre errors, and delays due to medical issues or background checks.
4. **On-Line Webinars** – Highly informative, quarterly webinars covering in excess of 20 safety and regulatory topics impacting bus operator and consortia operations.
5. **School Bus-Related Educational Workshops**, business sessions, keynote presentations and networking opportunities provided at the annual Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE) conference and trade show.
6. **School Bus Safety Week and School Bus Driver Appreciation Day Posters** – Adopted from the NAPT campaign, these posters were distributed to all bus operator and consortia members to continue promoting the safe image and brand of student transportation in Ontario.
7. **Bi-weekly, On-line Newsletter** with significant news, views and regulatory information not found anywhere else!
8. **OSBA and ISBOA Activities** – Joint meetings and work on various industry issues, as well as discussions regarding the future of two school bus associations in Ontario.
9. **School Bus Ontario Magazine** – Full of comprehensive, educational articles distributed to over 6000 relevant industry contacts.
10. **P.R.I.D.E. Recertification Program** – The Professional Instructor in Driver Education (P.R.I.D.E.) Program was approved by the Ministry of Transportation as a certified course provider for a 1-day Recertification Program.
11. **“S” Series Plates vs “B” Series Plates for School Buses** – OSBA continued work with MTO on the feasibility of only having S plates on school buses (instead of the current option of using S or B plates) and eliminating the non-school charter restrictions currently attached to an S series 10-month plate.
12. **Suggested School Bus Crossing Procedures at Gated Crossings** – Development of crossing guidelines to prevent school buses getting trapped at gated railway crossings (see OSBA magazine).
13. **Eight Lamp (Amber-Red) Warning Light System** – Continued communications with the Ministry of Transportation regarding when Ontario should adopt the eight-lamp (amber and red) warning light system.
14. **CSA D250** – Continued input and feedback to the D250 Technical Committee on School Buses to support improvements to the D250-16 manufacturing standard and for future iterations.
15. **Student Transportation Issues and Projects** – Advocacy and feedback on behalf of all OSBA members into numerous projects and issues such as:
  - stop arm cameras
  - hand held radio exemption
  - electric school bus pilot
  - school bus emission control systems
  - school bus occupant restraints and seat belts