

# Year in Review

## OSBA's TOP 2018



### Accomplishments for OSBA Members

- Advocacy and Government Relations** on behalf of all OSBA members, including on-going meetings, communications and written submissions to all levels of federal and provincial government including Transport Canada, the Ontario Ministries of Education and Transportation and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). Advocacy efforts focused on accomplishing: student transportation funding sustainability that allows flexibility at the local level and reflects urban and rural variability, cost changes and special needs; proficient and transparent competitive procurement practices that encourage provincial standardization and allow for annual adjustments based on appropriate benchmarks; overall changes to student transportation governance and administration to foster system wide efficiencies, cost savings, accountability and transparency of student transportation funds; industry cost saving opportunities and standardized requirements for service levels including pay-per-use bussing and staggered bell times which contribute to improved route planning and efficiency for operators and school boards; and long term, sustainable solutions that will address school bus driver wages, recruitment and retention.
- Safety/Legislative Consultation and Issue Management:** In-depth research and personalized assistance to members on a wide variety of issues including interpretation and explanation of industry related laws, vehicle safety standards and maintenance, alcohol and drug tolerance legislation, MTO enforcement, licencing delays and issues, school bus driver hours of service, daily vehicle inspections, the D250 manufacturing standard, and many more!
- School Bus Occupant Restraints (Seat Belts):** OSBA engaged with government, media and other stakeholders in response to concerns raised over school bus occupant safety, specifically the issue of seat belts on school buses. OSBA worked diligently to reassure the public that school buses are the safest means of transport for school aged children and that the student transportation industry is committed to continue working proactively to get students to school safely and on time.
- Cannabis Legalization:** OSBA worked with an alcohol and drug policy expert to conduct a member-only informational webinar in preparation for Cannabis Legalization and had an alcohol and drug policy reference document developed to assist members with developing and refining their internal policies and practices.
- 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, including an in-person meeting at Queen's Park.
- Criminal Background Check Service:** OSBA maintained support of its on-line Criminal Background Check Service for Class B and E driver licences as an alternative to obtaining more expensive and complicated in-person checks, and continues to help support members in navigating the criminal background check process.
- School Bus Ontario Magazine:** Comprehensive, educational articles distributed to over 6000 relevant industry contacts.
- Bi-weekly, On-line Newsletter** with relevant, industry-specific news, views and regulatory information not found anywhere else!
- Driver Licencing Upgrades and Renewals:** OSBA assisted members in navigating various complex steps needed to upgrade and renew school bus drivers' licences. When members encounter issues with medicals, background checks, DriveTest and/or the Driver Certification Program (DCP), OSBA is there to help identify solutions and get drivers on the road.
- Criminal Background Check Laws:** OSBA ensured the voice of student transportation was heard during consultations with the Ontario government on the potential changes to criminal background check laws. OSBA's input and feedback helped ensure that additional barriers to obtaining background checks for drivers, were avoided.
- Federal School Bus Manufacturing Standards:** OSBA continues keep members up to date on various school bus manufacturing standards such as requirements for Electronic Stability Control and stricter Emission Control Systems.
- Semi-Annual/Limited Brake Inspection (LBI) Changes:** OSBA undertook an education campaign, including two webinars and numerous newsletters, to ensure members were prepared for changes to the school bus and school purpose vehicle inspection standards.
- Driver Retention Program (DRP)** – To assist with driver recruitment and retention and as a result of many conversations, meetings, advocacy and OSBA's 2017 public affairs campaign, a \$60 million investment was secured (and maintained with the new PC government) for bonus payments to individual school bus drivers for three school terms in 2018-2019.
- School Bus Safety Publications:** When the free Service Ontario school bus safety publications were threatened by government funding cuts, OSBA helped maintain their availability by standing up and voicing the importance of these documents to the student transportation industry.
- On-Line Webinars:** Highly informative webinars covering in excess of 20 safety and regulatory topics impacting bus operator and consortia operations.
- Educational Workshops,** business sessions, keynote presentations and networking opportunities provided at the annual Ontario Transportation Expo (OTE) conference and trade show.