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## How to be an Awesome Passenger

**Passengers have a key role to play in enhancing the safety and enjoyment of automobile travel. Make note of the following tips to become a Perfect Passenger!**

Try to keep your voice down during the trip so that your driver can concentrate on safe driving.

Buckle up when travelling in a vehicle equipped with safety belts. Keep your seat belt fastened until you arrive safely at your destination.

Be kind and respectful to your driver and your fellow passengers. This will make your own ride much more enjoyable and minimize stress and distraction for your driver.

Use caution when entering and exiting the vehicle, particularly in wet weather, which can lead to slippery conditions.

Avoid playing with vehicle controls such as lights and power windows. Doing so can distract the driver.

Do not place items or body parts out of the window while the vehicle is in motion.

**Sit back, relax and enjoy the ride!**

# Information for Students Travelling in Vans

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS TRAVELLING IN VANS

- Know your child's specialized vehicle (van) route number, bus company and driver's name.
- Ensure that your child's current medical information has been provided to STEO.
- Let your driver, bus company and STEO know about any special requirements or challenges that your child may have while traveling.
- Have your child ready 5 minutes prior to pick up each day and waiting for the school vehicle to arrive. The driver is not able to wait for late arrivals. If the van is delayed, all students will be late for school. If your child is regularly late, the driver will submit a report to the school principal.
- Assist your child from the place of residence to the vehicle. Upon return, assist your child from the vehicle to the place of residence.
- Talk to your child about safe and appropriate behaviour while travelling in the van.
  - Throwing objects inside or outside the van, fighting, shouting or the use of obscene language are not permitted.
  - Eating, drinking and chewing gum are not allowed in vans. This protects students and drivers that have food allergies and Anaphylaxis, prevents choking and maintains van cleanliness and safety.
- Keep seat belt fastened always when in the van. **Seat belt non-compliance could result in the loss of transportation privileges.**
- Be aware that other students and/or the driver may have allergies to scents, such as perfumes and other hygiene/cosmetic products.
- Place names on students' belongings to avoid loss.
- Be aware of the procedures followed in case of emergencies or inclement weather and have in place appropriate arrangements for supervision, should your child be brought home earlier than normal or if you are not available to meet the van at the scheduled time.



Please remember that picture/video taking is a violation of the privacy of other students and that sharing photos with others or playing loud audio can be distracting for the driver.

Everybody is responsible for Creating a safe and pleasant ride.

## Stay Secured, Stay Safe

Specialized school vehicles such as vans are equipped with seat belts to enhance passenger safety.

Canadians are among the most mobile people on earth. This enormous country has 900,000 kilometers of roads, 22 million licensed drivers and 20 million registered vehicles.

### So, what can you do to stay safe while travelling?

There is one choice you can make that will dramatically increase your safety on the road, regardless of who is driving the other vehicle.

Since the early 1970's, Transport Canada has required that seat belts be fitted in all new motor vehicles in Canada. The provincial and territorial governments all have legislation requiring the use of seat belts and child restraints.

**FAST FACT:** Seat belts save about 1000 lives each year in Canada.

Today 93% of Canadians use their seat belts. Each percentage increase in the national seat belt wearing rate has helped to reduce the number of motor vehicle injuries.



Adapted from the publication *Seat Belt Sense*, published by Transport Canada.



**Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO)** is the transportation consortium of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB).

At STEO, your child's safety is our priority. Our mission is to work with parents, guardians, teachers, principals, bus companies and drivers to ensure the implementation of a safe and efficient transportation system.

## Contact Us:

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### **Inclement Weather Information:**

1-866-629-0562 (updated by 6:15am)

Download our FREE delays and cancellations App to receive updates specific to your route or school.

Check out [www.steo.ca](http://www.steo.ca) for details.

