

Transportation News



After a busy start to the school year we are pleased to announce the launch of our very own School Bus Operator Training Program!

We are constantly hiring new school bus operators and are planning to run a class approximately every 6 weeks. Please encourage your friends, family and acquaintances who you feel would make great school bus operators, either full time or relief to apply! If we have enough students we can alternate classes between Strathmore and Trochu.

Photos of the Skills Circuit

Front blind zone demonstration- the first cone is when the driver first sees a small child, this is approximately 6 foot from the front bumper, the second cone is when the driver would see the child's feet, this is at approximately 12 foot from the front bumper.



Tail Swing Demonstration- This shows the area to the rear of the bus that a driver must be really aware of prior to executing maneuvers and pulling away from stops. As the bus pulls away this area becomes a HUGE blind zone.



The Mirror Grid Activity- this activity helps school bus operators to correctly adjust their mirrors so they have optimum view around the bus and to minimize blind spots.



The Forward and Backward Serpentine Activity- this gets drivers really used to and comfortable with how the bus maneuvers and handles prior to heading out on the road. Drivers must weave between the cones forwards and backwards keeping the back tire no more than one foot from the cone as they pass it.



The training program runs for 6 working days, day 1(Friday) is skills circuit training, days 2-5 (Monday to Thursday) is on the road training from 9.30am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 4:00pm classroom training covering safety on the bus, student management, incident procedures, advanced driving skills etc., day 6 is a full day on the road ensuring that drivers are really comfortable with their procedures and all aspects of driving before their road test and more importantly for safely transporting our precious cargo.. After passing the road test the School Bus Operator Trainer/ Evaluator takes drivers for an on-road evaluation to ensure that they meet Golden Hills School Division No. 75 safe driving standards before they head out on the road with students on board. If our safe driving standards are not met during this evaluation, drivers will be put through additional training.

Thank you to all our School Bus Operators who came out to Wheatland Elementary on Thursday, October 15th to try out the skills circuit, learn a little more about our training program and give your input. We really appreciate it and hope you feel that you benefitted from, and enjoyed, the morning. Also thank you very much to Wheatland Elementary for allowing us to use the east end of their parking lot for this.

We held our first class from October 16th - October 23rd and the feedback was very positive. Thank you to Ron Kaechele, Garry Tetz and Barrie Vickery for doing a great job with the on-road training for these drivers, we were complemented by the Alberta Transportation examiner on the standard of the training our driver's had received. Provided we have enough students we will run the next class from November 27th - December 4th, 2015.

We are also making progress with evaluating all our existing school bus operators. The target is for all Golden Hills School Division No.75 School Bus Operators to have an on road evaluation by June 30th, 2016. There are three types of evaluation, peer observation, on road observation; where the driver would be tailed by the School Bus Operator Trainer/ Evaluator or Transportation Supervisor and an on road evaluation with the School Bus Operator Trainer/ Evaluator.

We are also introducing dexterity testing for our school bus operators to ensure they are physically able to operate a school bus safely.

After June 30th, 2016 dexterity testing and evaluations will be scheduled as follows; School Bus Operators; aged over 67- annually, aged 45 – 67- every three years, under 45- every five years. We take comments from the public and parents very seriously so we will follow up with evaluations in addition to those mentioned above should the need arise.

In October we had a very exciting, positive write up in the press. Our School Bus Operators are professionals who go through a lot of training to ensure that our children get to school and home safely and we want to make everyone aware of this so our School Bus Operators are treated with the respect that they deserve.

Read the article at:

http://virtual.strathmorestandard.com/doc/Strathmore-Standard/strathmorestandard_10212015/2015102101/#12