

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board is committed to the continuous improvement of school bus safety. Driving an empty school bus is a challenge with today's traffic and weather conditions, however, when you place 48 students behind the driver the difficulty is increased substantially.

In the hope of assisting drivers with the supervision of students on buses and thereby improving overall bus safety some buses have been outfitted with a black box at the front of the vehicle to accommodate a camcorder/video camera. The black box has one-way glass to make it impossible for anyone to determine if a camera is present and operational. This allows us to rotate one camera among several vehicles. The success experienced by other school boards in improving student behaviour and reducing driver stress has prompted us to consider this approach. The videotapes will not replace the current practice of drivers reporting misbehaviour.

Pursuant to the municipal freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act the authorization for the collection of this video information is the Education Act. The users of this information will be the Principal and/or Vice-Principal of the school and/or the Area Transportation Officer. Videos will be reviewed by the appropriate staff and will be erased on a regular basis.

It is our sincere hope that the camera will verify the students' appropriate conduct and thus improve the safety for all passengers. Your co-operation in encouraging good bus behaviour at all times is appreciated and we thank you for your support in helping to make our school buses safe and pleasant.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the video camera please direct your questions to the Principal or Vice-Principal or to the Transportation Department at 705-645-8704.