School Bus Driver Safety – Driver Conduct Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Distracted Driving:** Engaging in distractions (e.g., cellphone use, eating, or managing student behaviour) while driving compromises road safety, increasing crash risks for school buses.
2. **Unprofessional Behavior:** Inappropriate actions, such as yelling at students or using aggressive driving tactics (e.g., sudden braking to discipline), can escalate situations, distract drivers, and endanger passengers.
3. **Failure to Follow Protocols:** Not conducting pre- and post-trip inspections, ignoring traffic laws, or neglecting stop-arm procedures can lead to mechanical failures or collisions, compromising student safety.
4. **Fatigue Management Issues:** Exceeding hours-of-service limits or driving while fatigued reduces reaction times and decision-making, heightening crash risks, particularly on long routes.
5. **Inadequate Training:** Lack of comprehensive training on safe driving, student management, or emergency procedures can result in poor conduct, such as improper responses to incidents or traffic situations.
6. **Lack of Communication:** Failure to use two-way radios or report unsafe conditions (e.g., road hazards, student issues) promptly can delay responses, reducing overall safety.

STATS

- A 2022 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) report noted that 27% of fatal school bus crashes from 2013–2022 involved driver-related factors, with inattentiveness or improper conduct cited in 20% of non-

fatal crashes.

- WorkSafeBC reported in 2022 that 15% of school bus driver incidents in British Columbia were linked to driver conduct issues, such as failure to follow safety protocols or distracted driving.
- A 2020 School Transportation News survey found that 55% of school districts reported driver conduct issues, like improper student interactions, as a factor in safety complaints.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 18% of school bus drivers reported stress from maintaining professional conduct under challenging conditions, impacting safe driving performance.
- A 2023 School Bus Fleet report stated that 40% of districts with mandatory conduct training (e.g., de-escalation, safe driving) saw a 30% reduction in driver-related safety incidents.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) noted in 2023 that buses with regular driver conduct audits and training reduced safety violations by up to 25%.