

PRESS RELEASE

SBOA (MAH.) Announces Revision of School Bus Transportation Fees Effective June 2026

The School Bus Owners Association (SBOA Maharashtra) wishes to inform parents, schools, and all stakeholders that despite making several representations and submitting detailed memorandums to the State Government, State Transport Ministry, and various concerned enforcement authorities regarding the severe financial challenges faced by school bus operators, no concrete relief measures or corrective action have been initiated so far.

Over the past several days, SBOA (MAH.) has consistently appealed to the authorities to consider practical solutions and support mechanisms that would help school bus operators continue providing safe and reliable transportation services without passing on the burden to parents. We had also proposed various alternatives to avoid any increase in school bus fees. Unfortunately, despite our repeated requests and representations, there has been no positive response or assistance from the concerned authorities.

Under these circumstances, and with no viable alternative available, school bus operators are being compelled to revise transportation charges. Accordingly, school bus fees will be increased by **15% with effect from June 2026** for the Academic Year 2026-27.

This revision is not solely due to the recent diesel and fuel price hike. The industry is simultaneously facing unprecedented increases in:

- Fuel and diesel costs
- Labour and bus crew salaries
- Vehicle maintenance expenses
- Cost of spare parts and consumables
- Insurance and statutory compliance charges
- Toll and permit-related expenses
- Operational overheads
- Increasing burden of e-challans and enforcement-related penalties
- General inflation affecting all aspects of transport operations

It is important to note that rising operational costs have affected the entire transportation sector. Airlines across the country have also increased airfares substantially and, in several cases, have reduced their operational capacities. Similarly, school bus operators are struggling to sustain services while maintaining the highest standards of safety and compliance expected by schools and parents.

We fully understand the concerns of parents and educational institutions and sincerely regret the inconvenience caused by this unavoidable decision. However, unless adequate support is extended by the Government, the continued survival of the school transportation industry will become increasingly difficult.

School bus operators remain committed to providing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services for students. We respectfully seek the understanding, support, and cooperation of parents, schools, and all stakeholders during this challenging period.

We once again appeal to the Government to urgently review the situation and formulate appropriate measures that will protect the interests of students, parents, schools, and school transport operators alike.

For SBOA (MAH.)

Anil Garg
President
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