

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE

No. T-04-01



Department of Education
Jim Horne, Commissioner

Chief Education Financial Officer

School Support Services

School Transportation Management Section

Contact:
Ronnie H.
McCallister

(850) 245-9795
SC 205-9795

DATE: September 16, 2003

TO: School District Transportation Directors

FROM: Charlie Hood, Director
School Transportation Management

SUBJECT: National School Bus Safety Week, October 19-25, 2003

The Department of Education and the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT) honor Florida's school bus drivers and transportation department personnel throughout the state for their commitment and dedication to the safe transportation of students to and from school. Over one million students are taken back and forth to school each day on school buses, with buses traveling over 282 million miles throughout the year.

This year the official National School Bus Safety Week is **October 19-25, 2003**, and the theme is **"Stay Back, Stay Back from the Yellow and Black."** Although school buses continue to be the safest vehicle on the road to transport students, the danger zones around school buses continue to be of great concern for bus drivers and other motorists. Students within these areas are in the greatest danger of becoming injured. School districts need to continue to offer training to bus drivers on student pick-up and drop-off procedures, as well as offer training to students on safe behaviors in and around school buses.

During National School Bus Safety Week, district personnel are encouraged to provide activities that recognize school bus drivers and all transportation professionals and to applaud their commitment to school bus safety. The state of Florida maintains an excellent safety record in transporting public school children, and this special week is the perfect opportunity for the community to recognize and thank these transportation professionals.

The Department and the FAPT also want to recognize all local Community Traffic Safety Teams. These teams are made up of representatives from many community agencies who work together locally throughout the year to improve the safety of students and the motoring public.

In another student safety initiative the Department and the FAPT support the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse (MCIC), established by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other agencies, to promote prevention efforts and recovery of missing children.

Technical Assistance Note #T-04-01

September 16, 2003

Page Two

Attached is the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation Resolution commemorating National School Bus Safety Week. Please use the resolution as is or adapt it to meet your local district needs to show appreciation to the professionals dedicated to and responsible for safely transporting Florida's public school children.

CFH/rhm

Attachment

cc: Superintendents
Operations Personnel
MCIC Advisory Board
Major Kenneth Howes, Florida Highway Patrol
Marcia D. Lich, Safety Management System Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation
Robin Butler, CTST Coalition Chairperson
Gary Fitzpatrick, State Coordinator for Operation Lifesaver

Proud of our Past, Focused on our Future



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, helping local school districts to provide a safe environment for students is a primary goal of the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation recognizes and supports student safety goals and activities associated with National School Bus Safety Week October 19-25, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Florida's excellent safety record in transporting over 1,000,000 students each day on school buses has been achieved and must be maintained through the vigilance of state and local agencies, the motoring public, and the students themselves; and

WHEREAS, on a single school day in Florida, there are over 15,000 school buses transporting Florida's children to over 3,000 public schools; and

WHEREAS, motorists must continue to be reminded about their role in ensuring the safety of children who are walking, bicycling, and getting on or off school buses; and

WHEREAS, student transportation safety activities are supported by other agencies and locally based groups of highway safety advocates comprising Florida's local Community Traffic Safety Teams that have been committed to solving traffic safety problems since 1995; and

WHEREAS, school bus operators throughout the state serve as each local community's eyes and ears in supporting the prevention and recovery efforts of the Florida Missing Children Information Clearinghouse; and

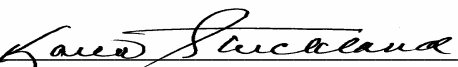
WHEREAS, activities during School Bus Safety Week and throughout the year provide evidence of Florida's commitment to ensuring the health and safety of school children, including those who ride school buses, walk, bicycle or ride in cars to school;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation does hereby proclaim October 19 through 25, 2003, as:

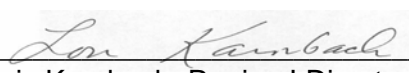
Florida School Bus Safety Week


IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the Executive Committee for the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation has hereunto subscribed their names on this 15th day of September, 2003.

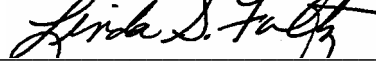

James (Jim) Beekman, Jr., President

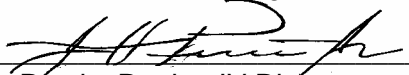

Karen Strickland, President-elect

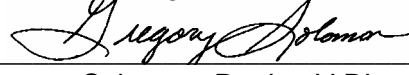

Fred Murphy, Past President


Louis Karnbach, Region I Director

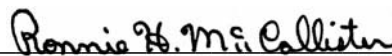

Kathleen Braselton, Region II Director

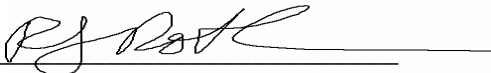

Linda Fultz, Region III Director


Joe Purvis, Region IV Director


Gregory Solomon, Region V Director


Charlie Hood, DOE Representative


Ronnie H. McCallister, Recording Secretary


Rick Rothberg, Treasurer