OCTOBER 2007

The 2007-08 school year is in full swing. The Annual School Bus Driver Instructor Trainings have been completed and we are confident that each instructor in Illinois is ready to teach the initial and refresher courses for Illinois School Bus Drivers for safe and successful transportation operations.

The overall response for having the annual school bus driver instructor training next summer was to have it in the same week as the Illinois Joint Conference of Pupil Transportation in Peoria. It would not be scheduled during any of the conference’s sessions. In addition, training would follow in the central Illinois area as a make up for any instructors that could not attend the Peoria training. Another idea proposed for next year’s annual School Bus Driver Instructor training is to provide “Basic First Aid” every 3 years (3 year cycle) to help alleviate separate trainings for the Instructors.

School Vehicle Use Guidance
Please click on the following link at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/school_vehicle_guidance.pdf) to access guidance on the allowable use of school vehicles for pupil transportation purposes. The guidance includes information on distinguishing types of transportation routes, types of vehicles used for pupil transportation including school buses, multi-function (white) activity buses and 15 passenger vans. The guidance also provides information regarding proper licensure for drivers of school vehicles and claimable cost on the annual Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS).

2007 National School Bus Safety Poster Contest
The National Association for Pupil Transportation is sponsoring their annual National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. Any student enrolled in a public, parochial or other private elementary school may submit an entry. Winning posters from each contest sponsored by a state, Canadian province or overseas military installation must be received at NAPT Headquarters by **October 15, 2007**. Students that are interested in submitting a poster can access rules and instructions by accessing the following link at [http://www.napt.org/associations/3103/files/PosterContestRules2007.pdf](http://www.napt.org/associations/3103/files/PosterContestRules2007.pdf).

The National School Bus Safety Poster Contact Person for Illinois is:
Barbara Rizzo, Transportation Director
PEOTONE C.U.D. #207U
212 West Wilson Street
Peotone, IL 60468
(P) 708-258-9605
peotonebus@prodigy.net
New Transportation Laws - 95th General Assembly
To view each bill listed below, go to: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/default.asp

HB 1238 – P.A. 95-0319
This legislation provides that a strobe lamp on a school bus may be lighted at any time when the bus is being used as a school bus and is bearing one or more pupils (rather than only when the bus is stopped or moving very slowly under those circumstances). This law is in effect August 21, 2007.

HB 1347 – P.A. 95-0241
Public Act 095–0241, signed by Governor Blagojevich on August 17, 2007, outlines additional requirements for school districts that choose to contract with a third party for non-instructional services. If your school district employs staff to perform various services such as, but not limited to, school meal service-related tasks, custodial services, and/or pupil transportation services, and the school district wishes to consider contracting those services out to a third party contractor, the school district is required to implement a number of new procedures as part of the contract solicitation and award process. A summary of the new requirements can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/Third_Party_Contracting.pdf.

HB 1475 - P.A. 95-0105
Although this new law does not directly affect school bus drivers, it does involve vehicles passing a school bus. If the owner of a vehicle that illegally passed a stopped school bus contends that another person was driving the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, the State’s Attorney or other designated person (rather than authorized prosecutor) may require the vehicle owner to provide a written statement or deposition identifying the operator of the vehicle. Failure to provide the required information will result in a 3 month suspension of the registration of the vehicle. This new law removes the authority to suspend the vehicle owner’s driving privileges for failure to supply the name of the operator of the vehicle. This law becomes effective January 1, 2008.

HB 3624 - P.A. 95-0176
This new law provides that each school bus shall display at the rear of the bus a visible and readable sign, indicating the telephone number of the owner of the school bus, and the number to be called to report erratic driving by the school bus driver. A white decal with black one inch letters and numbers displaying, “TO REPORT ERRATIC DRIVING (AREA CODE-SCHOOL BUS OWNER’S TELEPHONE NUMBER)” must be displayed on the rear of the bus. The decal shall be located on the rear window glazing below the seat back or on the bus body below the window line. The decal cannot be located on any emergency door glazing or any emergency window glazing. The decal must be visible to the motoring public from the rear of the bus and cannot obstruct any required lettering or numbers. Magnetic signs are not acceptable.

It also provides that the owner of each school bus shall establish procedures for accepting these calls and taking the complaints. These procedures shall include, but are not limited to, an internal investigation of the events that led to each complaint and a report to the complaining party of the results of that investigation and any action taken, if any. This law takes effect on January 1, 2008.

SB 166 - P.A. 95-0260
This legislation provides that each school district in the State shall have in place, by January 1, 2008, a policy to ensure that the school bus driver is the last person leaving every school bus and that no passenger is left behind or remains on the vehicle at the end of a route, a work shift, or the work day. This new law was effective upon signature, which was August 17, 2007. The policy that must be in place by January 1, 2008, requires the driver to shut off the ignition, activate the interior lights and walk to the rear of the bus to check for children still on board. If an electronic device is used, that device must activate the interior lights when the ignition is shut off.
SB 665 – P.A. 95-0352
This law effective August 23, 2007, allows both a visual and audio recording to be made on the interior of a school bus when transportation is provided for any school related activity. Notice of such recordings will have to be provided to parents, students, be clearly posted on the entrance door and inside the school bus. Recordings must be held confidential and can only be used by school officials and law enforcement personnel for disciplinary actions or prosecutions related to incidents occurring in or around the school bus.

Notice of recordings shall be displayed on the exterior of the entrance door and front interior bulkhead. A white decal with black letters measuring one inch high shall be used to display notice of these recordings. This decal must not cover any window glazing on the service door and shall not obstruct any other required lettering on the front interior bulkhead.

Reporting Accidents
Section 1035.45 of the Illinois Administrative Code - Employer Responsibility states that an employer must notify the Illinois Secretary of State (ISOS) as soon as possible, but not later than one (1) business day, whenever a school bus is involved in an accident and the driver is required to submit to the post-accident requirements as set forth in 49 C.F.R. 382.303 Post-accident testing. A completed Employer Notification Report (DSD SB-3.3) should be faxed to the ISOS at 217-524-3654 to meet this requirement. The following criteria should be used to help you determine when to contact our office to report an accident.
1. If there is a human fatality as a result of the accident; or,
2. If there is bodily injury to one or more persons requiring transportation to a medical facility AND the school bus driver involved is issued a traffic citation; or,
3. One or more vehicles must be towed from the scene of the accident AND the school bus driver involved is issued a traffic citation.

You should also be prepared to fax copies of the driver’s latest medical form and refresher training certificate.

Fee Changes
Effective October 1, 2007 the cost for electronic submission of fingerprints for an FBI criminal history record for school bus drivers will change. The current cost is $24.00. The new cost will be $19.25.
Reminders and Helpful Hints
Below are a few reminders to help you in the processing of school bus driver permit applications.

1. School bus employers must submit an original application for new applicants and also when sending in the employee’s annual renewal. Please remember to verify the refresher class date and the last physical date before submitting the form to ISOS. Without this information, ISOS will be unable to process the application.

2. All applicants for a school bus driver permit must use a school bus fingerprint vendor approved by ISP or must be fingerprinted by a school district approved by ISP. Not using an approved vendor/school district could delay the employment of the applicant.

   Please make sure your correct 7 digit employer number is given to the vendor when the applicant is being fingerprinted for a school bus driver permit. The applicant must be tagged as a school bus driver applicant in order for this office to receive both the ISP and FBI response and be able to monitor the driving record of your employee.

3. When requesting a supply of forms from ISOS such as the school bus driver application (SB 2.5), physical examination and certificate (SB 4.7) or certificate of employee removal/employer notification report (SB 3.4), it is important that you provide ISOS with the following information by contacting this office (SAFE RIDE) at (217) 782-7674 and using option #2.
   • the 7 digit employer number
   • company telephone number
   • name or form number of the forms you are requesting
   • quantity of forms being requested

   If all the information provided to ISOS is accurate, your requested forms will be sent out within 2 business days.

Certification in Student Transportation Management
Are you looking to obtain Certification in Student Transportation Management? The “Student Transportation Management Certificate Program” at Mohawk Valley Community College (Utica, NY) was developed at the request of the New York Association of Pupil Transportation (NYAPT).

The purpose of the Program is “to prepare personnel for management positions in transportation, especially Pupil Transportation, and to further enhance the skills of those already occupying such positions.” Mohawk Valley Community College also offers the convenience of on-line learning.

If you are interested in learning more about the Student Transportation Management Certification Program available through Mohawk Valley Community College, please visit their website at http://www.mvcc.edu/academics/departments/cced/ or contact Dick Shur at dshur@mvcc.edu for more details.

Websites worth checking out:

Illinois State Board of Education – School Bus Driver Transportation  
http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/student_transport.htm

American School Bus Council  
http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.com/

American School Bus Council – Love The Bus Program  
http://www.lovethebus.com/

If you are looking for an initial or refresher course for your school bus drivers and none are available in your area for whatever reason, there is an internet web site at www.iarss.org (Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools) and you will need to click on Bus Driver Training to look for a class nearest. YOUR Regional Office of Education (ROE) will need to be notified if you or any of your drivers will be taking a class in another area.

To Locate Illinois School Bus Driver Requirements go to the below link:  
http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/092/09201035sections.html

Independent School Bus Drivers (those that are not employed currently, but want to keep their permits up to date) can contact “SAFE RIDE” at 217-782-7674 for information.

DID YOU KNOW FACT?

In 1970, National Safety Week was launched. Organized by pupil transportation consultant Dick Fischer, the first National School Bus Safety Week debuts. Source: School Bus Fleet – September 2006

QUOTE

People who matter......... are most aware that everyone else does, too – Malcolm Forbes

Cinda Meneghetti  
State Director of Pupil Transportation  
cmeneghe@isbe.net  
217-782-5256

If you have any information or subject you would like to see in the newsletter, please email me and let me know. Thank you!

REMEMBER................Pupil safety is our first priority and School Bus Drivers make the most important deliveries.