

Quarterly Newsletter
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Division of Funding and Disbursement Services

November 2006

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all those participating in the revision of the school bus driver curriculum committee! You are the “behind the scenes” go getters that help to ensure Illinois children are transported safely. The next meeting will be in Springfield December 14, 2006. Along with updating the manual, section reviews will be added at the end of each section. Other changes to the curriculum are the added citations from the Illinois School Code and the Illinois Vehicle Code. There will also be a listing in the appendix of (most recent) all citations that pertain to School Bus Transportation. In addition, the initial course test questions will be revised and improved for clarity. Once the curriculum along with the test questions are approved by the Illinois Secretary of State, it will be printed and sent to all registered school bus drivers.

Tidbits

- Bob Riley was named November 28, 2006 as the new executive director for the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS). Bob served as state director in Wyoming from 1975-1982. He then served as the director of transportation for the Laramie County (Cheyenne). For the past 21 years Riley has worked for the Palm Beach County (Florida) School District. He has served as director of transportation there since 1994. Riley received a B.S. in Education from Towson State (MD) College and did graduate work in Traffic Safety/Transportation at the University of Maryland at College Park. Riley has been a presenter at the Transporting Students with Disabilities Conferences, NAPT Conferences, American Driver and Traffic Safety Association Conference, multiple state conferences, and the Wyoming Governor's Traffic Safety Conference.
- At the National Joint Conference of NASDPTS and NAPT held this year in Kansas City, Missouri many ideas are exchanged with persons across the nation. This enables attendees to find out how school bus transportation issues are dealt with in other states. And learning about new and proposed federal legislations helps to continue a valuable knowledge base on school bus transportation. This year a school bus and train accident was re-enacted with the emergency teams responding to the accident (pictures below). This brought painful memories to those that recall the Fox River Grove school bus tragedy over ten years ago and a powerful real life visual to those of us that need to be reminded of how dreadful an event like this can be.



Websites worth checking out:

<http://www.americanschoolbuscouncil.com/>

The St. Paul, Minnesota's policy (school bus behavior management)

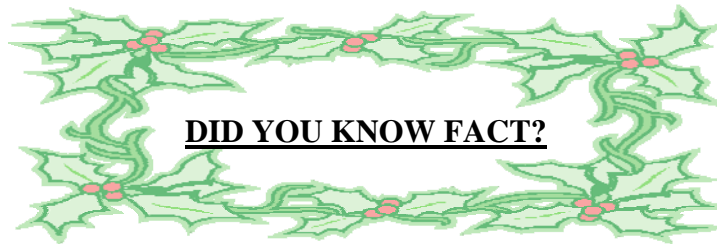
<http://www.transportation.spps.org/discipline.html>

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.

School Bus Driver Requirements can be found at:

<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.



In 1956, the number of schoolchildren transported nationwide at public expense passed the 10 million mark. (Source: School Bus Fleet – September 2006)

Today there are 25 million children transported to and from school by school buses – more than half of the nation's school children -- ride the school bus every school day. Because the school bus is the safest way for children to get to school, the more that ride the bus, the fewer that are likely to be seriously injured on their way to or from school. The school bus is not only safe, but also convenient, reliable and cost effective. (Source: National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.)

QUOTE

Remember, "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."
Unknown Author

AND lastly, please keep those families and friends in Alabama in your thoughts and prayers as they try to put their lives back together after the tragic school bus accident killing 4 teenagers. In perspective of our own lives and how split second decisions can change one's life forever, we need to count our blessings and make sure we continue to drive alert and safe.

I hope everyone had a bright and relaxing Thanksgiving and were able to stay warm during the ice storm of last week.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!



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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.....make sure it is yours.