



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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Our future is riding with us!

October 17, 2011

Dear Members, New York State Board of Regents:

National School Bus Safety Week is October 17-21, 2011.

The yellow school bus is an *icon* in our society. It speaks of safety and security and a solid and wholesome education for our children. That safety and security do not come easily but require the dedication and hard work of many professionals in the school transportation community.

School transportation professionals throughout our state are proud of the school bus safety record we have attained for our children and for our taxpayers. Our school bus technicians work hard every day to inspect and maintain our yellow school buses to the very highest standards. Our school bus drivers and attendants are trained and prepared to transport our children through all kinds of traffic and weather and to respond to their needs as they drive them to school. Our routers and dispatchers strive to find the fastest, safest and most efficient ways to get our children from school to home.

In recent years school transportation professionals have taken many steps to make local operations even more efficient and to identify ways to conserve valuable resources that are provided by our state and local taxpayers. This includes reviewing and adjusting our bus routes on a constant basis and eliminating idling of buses that wastes fuel and incorporating preventive maintenance efforts that will save our district in the long term. It also includes seeking out ways to share services with neighboring districts wherever possible.

During National School Bus Safety Week, we encourage you to learn more about the valuable service that school transportation programs provide for the children. We are a critical link for our children to the education they will receive when they get to school. We are the safest and most effective and energy-efficient means for transporting our children to and from school.

We are enclosing materials that show that our children understand the school bus safety message:

- a colorful bookmark that was developed as part of a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to call attention to the dangerous problem of illegal passing of school buses;
- a calendar depicting the winners of our annual School Bus Safety Poster Contest;
- the winning entry in our STOP-4-the-Bus bumper sticker contest.

We understand that "*our future is riding with us!*" and are eager to tell the story of how 2.3 million children are transported safely and on-time to and from school each and every day of the school year! It's quite a story!

Sincerely,

Peter F. Mannella

Executive Director