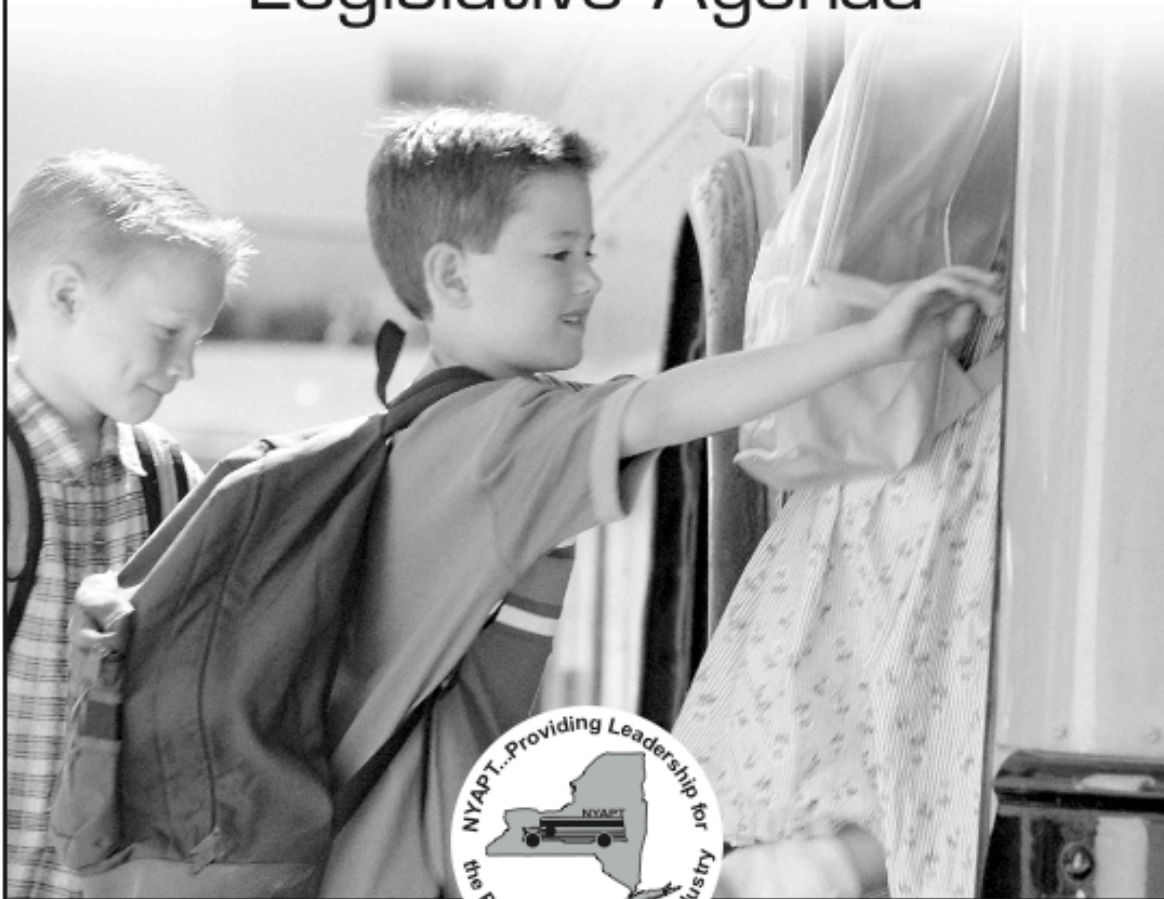


2 0 1 2
Legislative Agenda



NYAPT

**NEW YORK ASSOCIATION
FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

266 Hudson Avenue • Albany, NY 12210 • PH: 518-463-4937 FX: 518-463-8743 • WWW.NYAPT.ORG

Our future is riding with us!

INTRODUCTION

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) is a membership organization dedicated to the support, development and representation of the professional women and men who are responsible for the safe and efficient transportation of our school children in New York State. Our nearly 600 members are engaged in school transportation at school districts, BOCES, private contractors, private schools, and vendors and providers of school bus services.

*Our **2012 SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA** identifies and calls for action on key issues affecting the safe and efficient transportation of more than 2.3 million children each day in our State.*

There are numerous and diverse issues facing the professionals who are responsible for that transportation system and the safety of our children.

We are grateful for the action of the Legislature and the Governor in enacting Chapter 48 of the Laws of 2011 as relates to crimes that can disqualify a person from becoming a school bus driver. We applaud your leadership and action on behalf of the children.

The following key areas provide a focus for our efforts with the leadership of our State during the 2012 legislative session:

- Funding and Cost Containment/Mandate Relief Measures in School Transportation*
- Reducing the Incidence of Illegal Passing of School Buses*
- Opposing the Use of Advertising on School Buses*
- Eliminating Mandated Installation of Seat/Lap Belts on Large School Buses*
- Ensuring Excellence in School Transportation Administration*

Our members are available to share information about these issues with State Legislators, Regents, School Board members and Superintendents and others concerned about the safety of our children and the integrity of our school transportation programs.

For further information, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Peter F. Mannella, at 518-463-4937, or visit our website at www.nyapt.org.

December 2011



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

266 Hudson Avenue • Albany, NY 12210 • PH: 518-463-4937 FX: 518-463-8743 • WWW.NYAPT.ORG

Our future is riding with us!

FUNDING AND COST CONTAINMENT IN SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

FUNDING FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ *Maintain Transportation Aid as an expense-based aid for the near term while different approaches for funding school transportation are explored*
- ❖ *Continue the state's \$400,000 investment in school bus driver training and afford the Education Department additional flexibility in its administration*
- ❖ *Provide incentives to facilitate and remove disincentives for shared services between and among school districts*
- ❖ *Provide transportation aid to support transportation services provided to students participating in programs such as Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs*

COST CONTAINMENT MEASURES IN SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ *Adopt standardized school year calendars within BOCES districts to allow for efficiencies in the delivery of school transportation services*
- ❖ *Require local BOCES to collaborate with school districts, non-public schools, BOCES and other programs on improved coordination of 'bell times'*
- ❖ *Eliminate the mandated installation of seat/lap belts on large school buses*
- ❖ *Require involvement of school transportation professionals in CSE discussions relating to provision of special services for students with disabilities*
- ❖ *Require April 1st annual deadline for submittal by BOCES of Special Education placements and transportation needs*
- ❖ *Place a moratorium on mandated new equipment on school buses and additional staffing and training requirements for school transportation operations*
- ❖ *Reduce to 25 miles the maximum radius for transporting special needs students*
- ❖ *Reduce non-public school transportation distances from 15 miles to 10 miles*
- ❖ *Repeal statutory requirements for Fire Suppression devices on school buses*
- ❖ *Allow for an annual (prior to the start of the school year) re-assessment of the circumstances determining a student's status as homeless*

REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF ILLEGAL PASSING OF SCHOOL BUSES

- ❖ *Allow prosecution of violations of Section 1174 to proceed from an affidavit from the school bus driver attesting as to the license plate affixed to the violating vehicle*
- ❖ *Allow prosecution of violations of Section 1174 to proceed from evidence derived from a camera affixed to the school bus or based in lieu of an affidavit from a school bus driver*
- ❖ *Increase penalties for repeat violators of Section 1174 to include suspension of the driver's license for 180 days*
- ❖ *Allow for the diversion of a portion of the fines collected from violations of Section 1174 to support education and enforcement activities related to illegal passing*
- ❖ *Include illegal passing as qualifying for the distinction made for crimes of aggravated assault and aggravated vehicular homicide*

OPPOSING THE USE OF ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL BUSES

- ❖ *Oppose any law that would authorize the installation of advertising on school buses, such opposition linked to the issue of visibility of the school bus that derives from its unique National School Bus Chrome Yellow coloring*
- ❖ *Restrict the use of National School Bus Chrome to school buses as defined in Section 142 of the Vehicle & Traffic Law to ensure distinct visibility for the school bus*

ELIMINATING MANDATE FOR SEAT/LAP BELTS ON LARGE SCHOOL BUSES

- ❖ *Eliminate the mandatory installation of seat belts on school buses that are over 10,000 pounds and allow for the removal of such belts from school buses where such removal would not compromise the safety of the students and the integrity of the school bus*
- ❖ *Oppose any proposed legislation that would mandate the use of seat/lap belts by school children riding on school buses*

ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

- ❖ *Require the retention by school districts of qualified individuals to carry out and execute the responsibilities attendant to the safe and efficient transportation of children to and from school and school related activities as the means to control costs and ensure compliance with all safety requirements*
- ❖ *Strengthening the training system that has kept our children safe for many years*

Additional Discussion and Information is Available for Each Element of this Agenda. Please visit the NYAPT website at www.nyapt.org and click on Legislative/Advocacy, or contact Peter Mannella, Executive Director at 518-463-4937 or peter@nyapt.org.