



TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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Thoughts from The Director By William Talmadge

Let me share some interesting facts about school bus transportation in Louisiana. Based on the 2006-07 school year, there were 454,746 students that were riders from public schools and 19,486 from private schools. Our state

used 8,152 buses to drive a total 68, 884,920 miles. The state provided \$306,341,288 for school bus transportation during that period. Our school district is the largest in Louisiana in terms of student riders, mileage, and num-



SPRING BREAK

Spring vacation for Bus Drivers starts after the last route on Thursday evening, April 9th, 2009. We resume work on Monday, April 20th.



photo with Les Miles

The Other Side of the Coin by Joe Sullivan

All too often bus drivers take the brunt of criticism for issues with students, the school, from parents, and even from other drivers. The large majority of our drivers are doing an excellent job each day. Drivers suffer with old equipment, loud and unruly students, demanding parents and authoritative school personnel. Yet each

day collectively, we safely transport over 40,000 young people back and forth from home and school. Meanwhile, achieving 99% is simply not good enough. We are expected to be successful 100% of the time everyday, morning and evening. The ironic thing is, we achieve

100% routinely, without fanfare, without thanks, even though our cargo is the most precious of all goods and products - the children of our neighbors. Be proud of your accomplishments each day. And, by the way, thank you for all that you do to keep our kids safe.

Helpful Hints

- Stop at all railroad crossings
- Students can not cross four lanes.
- Students must be seated while the bus is in motion.
- Drivers may not use cell phones while driving.
- Be professional and calm when dealing with behavior issues.
- Do not turn right at red lights.
- Be sure talk to a Supervisor or office clerk when reporting problems.

Special points of interest:

Early Dismissal

- April 22 Middle/High 11:30
- Elementary 12:30
- May 19 Middle/ High 11:45
- May 20 Middle/ High 11:45
- Elementary 1:25
- May 21 Middle/ High 11:45
- Elementary 1:25

Thoughts from the Director**continued from page 1**

ber of drivers and size of our bus fleet. Knowing the facts leads us to the realization that with this large task comes even greater responsibility to our local community.

Driving safety is an area that we constantly work toward improving. The Accident Review Board meets five times each year to consider the “preventability” of each accident. In addition, fault is determined. There are typically 25 to 40 accident cases considered at each meeting. The board consists of three bus drivers, two insurance adjusters, our district Risk Manager, Safety Officer and Transportation Supervisor. In addition, safety meetings are designed to help reduce accidents and potential high risk situations.

The process of improvement is a responsibility that we all share and hopefully we will succeed. In Louisiana the average number of school bus related student deaths per year is three. If your friends or your family are one of those three, the impact is devastating. Zero is the only number that is acceptable!

Crossing the Railroad Tracks

- Slow down when approaching the crossing.
- Turn on emergency flashers 200 feet before the crossing.
- Stay to the right unless making an immediate left turn.
- Stop between 15 and 50 feet from the crossing.
- Press down on the service brake and set the parking brake.
- Silence passengers and noisy equipment.
- Open the service door and driver’s window.
- Look and listen for approaching train.
- At a multiple track crossing make sure all tracks are clear before proceeding.
- Cross the tracks without switching gears.
- If the gate comes down while crossing, do not stop.

