

# Louisiana Believes

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## **LASTO 2015 SPRING CONFERENCE**

Updates on School Transportation

March 4, 2015

Shirley Williams, Director of Transportation

State Department of Education



# Acknowledgement

On behalf of the  
*Louisiana Department of Education*

We sincerely appreciate ALL you do for  
the safety of our children

Thanks to the Louisiana Association of School  
Transportation Officials  
(LASTO)

# Acknowledgement

- The world of student transportation is evolving; you must be kept up-to-date on the changes. Almost every year during the LA Legislative Session, laws affecting student transportation are enacted and/or revised.
- The federal government establishes standards (called “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards”) that affects the design and construction of schools buses and also increase the cost of school buses.

# Acknowledgement

- When the Louisiana Legislature enacts laws affecting student transportation, the LDOE is directed to be responsible for developing rules and regulations for local school districts and their employees to follow.

# Training and Certification of School Bus Operators

- DOE updated and implemented the certification requirements for school bus operators in December 2011.
- Every school bus driver pre-service training instructor, must complete applicable certification, re-certification and training update requirements as developed by the BESE and LDOE according to RS 17:497.4.

# Training and Certification of School Bus Operators

- All LEA's that has met the requirements for re-certification , Which includes:
  - Submitting your completed annual report of pre-service training classes taught at the end of each calendar year to LDOE on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Participate in a DOE approved training announced by the department.
- Upon completion of meetings these requirements all LEA's and vendors will be re-certified for an additional three-year period from the date of the current certificate.
- All pre-service training of bus drivers must be conducted by a certified Trainer.

# Bulletin 119, Updates:

## Chapter 25: Purchase, Sale, Lease, and Repair of School Buses

### § 2509. Used School Buses

- C. Any school bus used as an activity or backup bus, at the time it is acquired by the owner and placed in service, shall be 15 or fewer model years old. The number of years shall be reckoned from the date of the model year (see §3103, Calculating the Age of School Buses).
- D. Any school bus used as an activity or backup bus that is older than 15 model years shall not be used more than 60 consecutive school days in a school year.

# Bulletin 119, Updates:

## Chapter 3: §303. Certification of School Bus Drivers

5. Drivers must pass a physical and eye examination meeting current CDL requirements annually. A copy of the examination record must be filed with the LEA transportation office before the beginning of each school year. More extensive and/or more frequent exams may be required by the LEA, Head Start or private employer.

# Bulletin 119, Updates:

## Chapter 3: §303. Certification of School Bus Drivers (Continued)

- All school bus drivers must be certified as having normal use of both hands, both arms, both feet, both legs and must possess normal or corrected vision of 20/40 in both eyes, with a field of vision of at least 150 degrees. They must have corrected or normal hearing, be free of communicable disease and of mental, emotion or functional disorders.

# Bulletin 119, Updates:

## Chapter 3: §303. Certification of School Bus Drivers

a. After a heart attack or other serious illness, a certificate of health and permission to return to work from a licensed physician must be presented and filed with the transportation office and maintained in the driver's record. Local school boards may require such certification, as well as all annual physical examinations, to be approved by board-appointed physicians, who also may be required to meet requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

6. Drivers must pass **initial** drug and alcohol screening requirements and United States Department of Transportation-directed random testing, as specified by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. More stringent requirements may be imposed by individual LEAs and/or private contractors.

# Bulletin 119, Updates:

## **Chapter 9. Vehicle Operation §903. Loading and Unloading**

- HB 600 \ Act 654

## Other Important Updates:

- ✓ LDOE no longer require your submission of FORM T-10 at the state-level. It is mandatory that the seller of any new or used school bus complete a T-10 form verifying that the purchased vehicle meets all state and federal school bus specifications applicable at the time of manufacture.
- ✓ LDOE no longer require your submission of the Accident Report Forms.
- ✓ The Ridership Data Collection Survey
- ✓ All pre-service training documentation was due by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Other Important Updates:

- ✓ The 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference will be held July 12-15, 2015 in Arlington, Texas.
- ✓ 2015 Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Buster Bynum Education Scholarship Award.
- ✓ The 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress on School Transportation will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, May 17-20, 2015.
- ✓ Louisiana Department of Education School Bus Behavior Report (FORM "SB")
- ✓ Please visit the LDOE website to get the most recent updated version of Bulletin 119: Louisiana Specifications and Procedures.
- ✓ Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development MOU Emergency Preparedness Operations.
- ✓ Please notify me in the event your contact information changes.

# Contact Information

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