



## LA Association of School Transportation Officials

January 27, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The Louisiana Association of School Transportation Officials (LASTO) are excited to announce an opportunity for both our own membership and those who deal with Special Needs student or Special Needs transportation in the State of Louisiana.

At our conference in March, we will feature Linda Bluth, who has over 60 years of experience as a special educator, including over 40 years in special needs transportation, with expertise in special needs transportation policies and procedures. In addition, she has over 120 publications in the field of school transportation and numerous education publications and for the past few decades, she has done consulting with school districts and state agencies, and provided expert witness testimony on criminal and civil cases involving student transportation. She will be presenting a session titled **"Implementing Appropriate Transportation for Students with Disabilities"**.

We will also have Teena Mitchell. Teena is currently the Special Needs Coordinator for the Greenville County Schools and has been national special needs transportation instructor since 2007. She is also an instructor for the National Association of Pupil Transportation since 2014 where she has also help developed curriculum for the NAPT. She currently sits on the board of the NAPT. Teena will be presenting a session on the **"Bus Evacuations and the requirements, training and equipment, etc. needed for student transportation"**

**We would like to invite Special Need department managers/supervisors for the school districts in the state of Louisiana to attend our conference on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Paragon Casino in Marksville, LA. The cost would be \$60 dollars for attendance on this day. This will include the two sessions that Linda Bluth, the session for Teena Mitchell and a session that Elizabeth Duncan from La. D.O.E will discuss about Medicaid reimbursements. This will also include lunch on this day.**

We think this is a great opportunity for the Special Needs Departments and the Transportation Departments to learn and expand their knowledge of the requirements, challenges and potential issues for school districts related to Special Needs transportation.

If you would like to register to attend for these sessions, please go to our Website at [www.lasto.org](http://www.lasto.org) and please see the attached for hotel reservations if needed. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Gordon Terrell**

Director Transportation

Plaquemines Parish School Board

Past President- L.A.S.T.O.