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Pre-Service School Bus Driver Training Program Bill Leaming, Northeast Regional Instructor

Christmas is a season for everyone to enjoy. There are also times of the season that we dedicate to our children. Taking our children Christmas shopping, seeing Santa in the stores or parade, and taking the extra time to help our children prepare for the holidays -- these are all the things that make Christmas so magical to our kids.

Which leads me to the importance of our job. Recently, in the United States five children were killed in a three-day span and seven injured when they were hit by drivers near school bus stops.

Tuesday: Crossing the street to their bus stop in the morning in rural Indiana, 9-year-old Alivia Stahl and her twin 6-year-old brothers, Mason and Xzavier Ingle, were fatally struck by a pickup truck, police said.

Wednesday: A 9-year-old was struck and killed north of Tupelo, Mississippi as he crossed the road to board a school bus.

Thursday: In central Pennsylvania, a 7-year-old boy from Franklin Township was found dead on side of the road by his home after he was run over by a slow-moving vehicle as the school bus was approaching.

They were just kids trying to get to school and won't be enjoying the Christmas season. The safety of Ohio children is dependent on the integrity of drivers to do the right thing when nobody is watching. That right thing is adhering to the safety rules and motor vehicles laws that govern the safety of our students. We have the best safety record and the best training in the United States, but that record will not continue unless we impress upon our drivers that safety takes integrity. I witness, and am contacted by outside sources about, drivers not doing the safety procedures that are in place for the safety of our precious cargo. We must all strive to hold each other to a higher standard for the protection of children so that all

children can enjoy a bright future full of many Christmases to come.

GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATES

With the increase of new supervisors I must remind everyone about the guidelines that surround the issuance of new and recertification certificates.

First, every one of our rules is governed by Revised Code 4511.76 (C) "*No person shall operate a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state in violation of the rules of the department of education or the department of public safety.*" These requirements are outlined in O.A.C. 3301-83-06 (B)(5) and 3301-83-10 (A)(1).

"No person, being the owner thereof or having the supervisory responsibility thereof, shall permit the operation of a vehicle used for pupil transportation within this state in violation of the rules of the department of education or the department of public safety."

Please be aware of the expiration of veteran drivers' certificates and plan accordingly. They cannot drive without a current certificate from O.D.E. and a current supervisor's certificate as listed in 3301-83-(B)(5).

The two things I would emphasize is:

1. The OBI testing that is listed on the T9 under Section III must be within the last 30 days of application for a new certificate.
2. The second is that the application for a new certificate must be within 30 days of the expiration of the current certificate.



VAN DRIVER CERTIFICATION

- Please send applications with the original test answer sheet to my office. If any answer sheet contains typed responses, these will be voided and a new test with handwritten responses must be submitted for consideration. ***PLEASE STRIVE TO ADMINISTER THE TEST SO THAT INDIVIDUALS COMPLETE THEIR OWN TEST.***
- Do not send pre-trip and road tests.
- Immediately enter in SFPS so that processing can be completed in the SAFE account. The completion of the application is sometimes delayed because of the failure to enter the information into the SFPS.

It is a two-step process: (1) send application and test answers, and (2) enter into SFPS.

You also need to include a school purchase order, school check, or money order in the amount of \$60.00 each.

Applications that have been entered into the SFPS without test answer sheets will only be held for 30 days. The completion of the test must be within the last 30 days. After 30 days the application will be deleted from the system and you must re-apply.

2018 REGIONAL ROAD-E-O

The Road-E-O was moved to October 2018 and is scheduled for October 5, 2019. After that, the committee will reassess the timeframe and make future decisions on the time of year.



1st Place
Lori Fanger
Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools



3rd Place Team at State from the Northeast Region

Left to Right: Sandra Lowe, Mallory Hughes, Kaylee Clayman, Lori Fanger, Andrew Lenart, Christina Quigley

2018 STATE ROAD-E-O RESULTS

The Regional Road-E-O was held on October 6, 2018 in Canfield. I want to express my sincere gratitude to Darlene Pellin of Jackson-Milton Local School District for her leadership and hard work over the last three years in guiding the Road-E-O regional committee to superb events. The results of the October 2018 Road-E-O are posted on the website. Those drivers who achieved a score of 580 or better are exempt from the driving requirement for recertification.

The State School Bus Road-E-O took place on October 27, 2018 and I am proud to announce that Lori Fanger from the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District took first place. In addition, the Northeast took third place in the team event with members Lori Fanger, Kaylee Clayman, Christina Quigley, and Andrew Lenart from Kenston Local Schools; Mallory Hughes from West Branch Local Schools; and Sandra Lowe from Norton City Schools.

Thanks to all who made the regional event a success and those drivers who competed at the state event. Thanks for representing the Northeast!

The 2019 State Road-E-O date is October 26, 2019.

NEW SUPERVISORS

If you are a new transportation supervisor, you will need to complete the Pre-Service class (if you do not have a CDL S&P). 3301-83-06 (A)(8) "*Completion of the classroom portion of the Ohio Pre-Service driver training program at least once every six years is required pursuant to paragraph (A)(2)*". **Newly assigned administrators shall complete the classroom portion of the Ohio Pre-Service school bus driver training program within one year of their appointment to the position.** I would recommend that new supervisors become members of OAPT which is the premier resource for professional development and networking for pupil transportation administrators in the state of Ohio. Members of OAPT are dedicated to student safety, efficiency, and continuous improvement within their operations. Members are provided with training, networking opportunities, and resources to grow as school business officials responsible for the lives of children and millions of dollars in tax money.

NEW LOCATION FOR SUMMIT COUNTY

Starting with the February 5, 2019 class, the Summit County Pre-Service class will be held at the Summit County Educational Service Center, 420 Washington Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls. Occasionally we need to make changes to the schedule. It is always a good idea to check the schedule the week before you send drivers to make sure that nothing has changed.

OBI MEETINGS

The annual OBI meetings are on the revised schedule.

Mahoning and Trumbull	January 11, 2019 Trumbull County ESC in Niles
Summit and Portage	January 24, 2019 Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna
Geauga and Lake	February 4, 2019 Auburn Career Center in Concord
Ashtabula County	February 15, 2019 Ashtabula County Educational Service Center

2018/2019 OASBO/OAPT/ODE

Professional Development Schedule

The following is a list of upcoming seminars for supervisors. Details will be announced at a later date.

January 16, 2019	School Van Training
February 20, 2019	Student Management on the School Bus
April 17, 2019	Dealing with the Active Shooter
June 21, 2019	Financial Reporting and Data Collection

2019 OAPT CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Ohio Association of Pupil Transportation will be held March 17-20, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Dublin, Ohio. Visit their website for more information and registration.

NEW OBIs

The eight regions have developed the same requirements for certifying a new OBI. I have posted them on the website as well as listed here.

Ohio Pre-Service OBI Certification Requirements (Effective 12/1/2018)

These are steps that need to be completed in order for a person to be certified as an on-bus instructor. These steps do not need to be accomplished in any particular

order. Once the steps are completed, an OBI certificate will be issued by the regional Pre-Service instructor.

- The transportation supervisor of the district or employer must send a written recommendation to the regional Pre-Service office designating the driver as an on-bus instructor (OBI) candidate.
- The OBI candidate must attend a 15-hour Pre-Service class.
- The OBI candidate must shadow a certified OBI.
- The regional Pre-Service instructor will conduct a pre-trip inspection and driving evaluation of the OBI candidate.
- The OBI candidate must send training and testing documents for the first driver trained to the regional Pre-Service instructor upon completion of that driver's training.

MISTAKES IN APPLICATIONS

I strive to process as efficiently as possible, but there are a couple of items that sometimes prohibit the expediting of certificate applications.

1. **The date of the Pre-Service class is incorrect --** The date of the Pre-Service class must be the first day of class. We have found that when tracking and billing, it is easier to start with the day that the driver first attended class.
2. **Date in Item #4 on the T9 --** The section for the TEMPORARY CERTIFICATES is to remain blank. There is a misconception that the date of the driver's TICIP needs to be entered in that section.
3. **Date of OBI testing -- The date in item #3 of the T9 must be within the last 30 days --** I recommend that this be the final evaluation that the OBI does before he/she signs off and gives it to the supervisor to enter the information into the SFPS. That bears repeating. **THE DATE IN ITEM #3 SHOULD BE THE LAST TRAINING DATE ON THE T9 FOR NEW DRIVERS.**

SUMMER ADVANCED CLASSES

This year's classes will be held on June 10-12, 2019 at the Apollo Career Center, 3325 Shawnee Road, Lima. The second week will be June 17-19, 2019 in our region. The tentative location is set for the Mahoning County Career Center in Canfield. As we develop the agenda and added inservice on Monday, I will post the information.

3RD ANNUAL "OBI FOR OBIS WORKSHOP"

I am very proud of the committee that continues to put together this summer workshop for our OBIs. This would not be possible except for the dedication of a handful of people who work tirelessly all year. This year they are changing the format in hopes of making it more accessible to all in our region. The day will be one day only with four topics to be chosen. As always, they are designed for participation to further develop the best training procedures and continuity in our delivery of instruction to all drivers. The date will be the week of June 17, 2019 with the probable location the same as the Summer Advanced Classes in Canfield.

RULE CHANGES

We are still waiting for the rules to move through the committees. There will be another time for everyone to comment on the proposed changes. I'll let you know when that window opens and closes. As soon as they are approved, new books will be printed and the distribution will commence.

"WHAT IF?"

A frequently asked question: *I have a new driver that*

Here are the guidelines to help answer that question.

...certificate *has* expired but *has* driven with students in the last two years: 3 days of class and recertified by your OBI.

...certificate *has* expired but *hasn't* driven with students in the last two years: 5 days of class and 12 hours of retraining by OBI.

...certificate *hasn't* expired but *hasn't* driven with students in the last two years: 5 days of class and 12 hours of retraining by OBI.

I hope this helps, but you can always call me!

FINALLY

It goes without saying that I so very proud of the work everyone does day by day, hour by hour, and minute by minute to transport our students safely. I have never worked with a more dedicated group of professionals in my life. Thank you from all the parents and kids who take you for granted.

*Christmas is a special time
To give, to serve, to love.
It isn't just about yourself,
But others that you think of.*

*The presents, the trees, the glowing lights
Are fun but have no part
In what the real meaning of Christmas is . . .
That is in your heart.*

*Even if other people don't,
You should try to do
The things that you would want
Them to do to you*

*The holidays are a busy time,
But they are sometimes good
Because they keep you thinking
About others like you should.*

*So this year, try to not think about yourself,
But think of the things you can do
To help others have a wonderful Christmas,
And you'll find that you will be happy too.*

Happy Holidays!!