Updates from Ohio Dept of Ed

2008 Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Conference

by Pete Japikse

The game has changed . . .

- In today's electronic communications world, the rules of the game are in constant motion
- Status quo is a figment of your imagination
- Accountability is better than liability

A quick overview of our business

- Federal Issues
- State Issues
- Local Issues
- The Future
- Some data to consider
- ... Pulling it all together ...

Federal

- FMCSA
- Passenger restraints
 - Seat back height, optional restraints, <10,000 GVW
- Vehicle purchase costs
- Operating Cost
- Fuel costs . . . And availability
- Alternative Fuels

EPA funding grants

- Ohio EPA Clean Diesel Fund available to public districts
 - www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html
- Ohio Dept of Development -Diesel Emission Reduction Grant (DERG)
 - www.odod.state.oh.us/diesel%2Demissions
- US EPA school bus retrofits
 - www.epa.gov/midwestcleandiesel/index.html

State

- Background checks
 - State, federal, timing, backlogs
- Van drivers
 - Online registration, recertification
- Bus drivers
 - keep it current, monitor reports (status report)
 - Records on file including tests
- Physicals
- Accountability must be auditable!

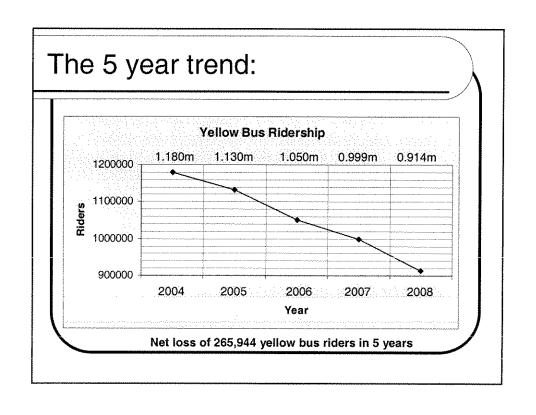
More State . . .

- Preschool transportation
- Seat belt rules/regulations
- HB 426 sovereign immunity
- Anti-idling policies
- Regionalization coordination
- Budget
 - Cuts
 - FYs 10 & 11
- Formula

Data from FY07. . .

Total students transported – yellow bus	933,109
Total students transported – all types	1,052,462
Assigned buses	15,125
Total Daily miles	950,488
Total operating cost (state & local)	\$ 671 million
Avg cost per Regular Ed Student	\$ 630 (Type I)
	\$ 969 (Type II)
Avg cost per Special Ed Student	\$ 5,052

Average cost per bus	\$42,370 (I)
	\$51,668 (II)
Avg miles per bus	63 daily
	11,354 annua
Avg students per bus	67
Avg spare buses : assigned buses	1: 3 1/2
Avg mechanics to assigned buses	1: 17.8



Local

- Personnel qualifications
- Data collection
- Record keeping
- Self assessment
 - Efficiency
 - Cost management
 - Peers benchmarking
 - By density, ridership, fleet size

More Local

- Does your board know what you do?
 - Status reports?
 - Regular communication
- How can you sell change?
 - Provide options , with a price tag

More local . . .

- Acknowledge the family dependence on pupil transportation
- Sell your story
- Recognize and acknowledge the driver
- Build your team

Training opportunities

- Brochures in conference notebook
 - April 10 Work styles and dispute resolution
 - June 12-17 Transportation by the numbers
 - June weeks 2,3,4 OBI & Advanced class
 - July 31/Aug 1- Back to basics

In spite of the challenges . . .

- Your services are valuable!
- 1 bus replaces up to 70 cars on the road
- Children are 12-44 times safer on the bus
- Buses are convenient
- Many of you manage to accomplish the impossible on a routine basis

And you are taken for granted!

- Most of our public calls are not thank you calls
- People don't miss us until we are gone
- We must acknowledge this fact, and manage it.
- Don't allow being taken for granted to be the reason your district assumes it is okay to reduce transportation services.

So hang in there . . .

- What does not break us, makes us stronger
- Every challenge we meet helps us to improve our service.
- At the end of the day, each of you are here because of the children.

Thank You!