




NATIONAL SCHOOL  
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

**2022 NYSBCA Annual Convention**

**NSTA Update: Stronger Together**

**October 22, 2022**


**STRIVING TO OUTDO  
NSTA 2022**

**Presenters**

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**Carina Noble**  
President  
National School Transportation Association

**SVP of Communications and External Affairs**  
National Express




**Bree Allen**  
Government Relations Committee Chair  
National School Transportation Association

**Senior Director, Operational Improvement**  
National Express



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# NSTA Momentum



## NSTA 2022 Current State Summary

- We continue to add new members, adding 24,000+ buses to our membership this year
- NSTA members operate 123,000 school buses, over a quarter of the buses on the road
- NSTA member buses make up almost 64% of private school buses in the United States
- Highest # of State Association Members
- The past year has seen record attendance the NSTA Annual Meeting and Convention as well as the Capitol Hill Bus-In
- Continuing to focus on
  1. Raising awareness/protecting our industry
  2. Increasing contracted operations
  3. Member education – value for members

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## Raising Awareness/Protecting Our Industry

- **Problem:** NSTA Members have voiced concerns over the shortage of Type-A school bus chassis
- **Action:** On October 10, 2022, NSTA sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg calling for his assistance in alleviating the supply chain bottlenecks by:
  - Encouraging chassis manufacturers to set aside resources for student transportation
  - Prioritizing supply chain initiatives for small bus chassis
  - Developing incentives for domestic chassis production
  - Expanding the DOT Port Infrastructure and Supply Chain Resiliency Program

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## Raising Awareness/Protecting Our Industry

**NSTA: The Bus Stop**

**Spotify – Buzzsprout – Apple Podcasts**

**Released Weekly on Wednesdays with the  
NSTA Membership Minute**

If you would like to more information about  
NSTA: The Bus Stop, please contact [info@yellowbuses.org](mailto:info@yellowbuses.org)

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## Increasing Contracted Operations

- Business Development Committee continues to update our Outsourcing Student Transportation Tool Kit
- At the 2022 NSTA Annual Meeting and Convention, the Committee debuted Part 1 of the Tool Kit, *the Benefits of Contracting Transportation Services*
  - Part 1 is meant to be a conversation starter to provide to School Districts to get process of outsourcing started
  - This informational bi-fold can be found on [schoolbusfleet.com](http://schoolbusfleet.com)
  - You can also request physical copies of the bi-fold by contacting NSTA Headquarters

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## Increasing Contracted Operations

- Since 2018, the NSTA Business Development Committee has conducted a yearly engagement with the Spectrum Consulting Group from Michigan State University
- The focus of the project is to determine the market share of private contractors and district-operated fleets
- We use the data to improve NSTA advocacy efforts, increase membership, and to target marketing and communications
- Last year's project focused on the market share in the states of Arizona, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, South Dakota, and Texas

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## NSTA Electric School Bus Education

- We have been at the forefront of educating the public, elected officials, school districts, and regulatory agencies on the challenges of electrification.
  - Published an Electric School Bus Discussion Paper following the Biden Administration’s announcement of their Electric School Bus Initiative.
  - Written letters to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) addressing concerns with the Clean School Bus Program.
  - Hosted panels at all events in the past year to keep members informed on electrification issues and updates.
  - Invited members to an Electric School Bus educational/demo event at IC Bus’s facility in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

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## NSTA Electric School Bus Member Education






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## NSTA Advocacy Team Initiatives




### Advocacy Success

Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS)

- \$2 Billion in direct payments for school bus contractors that experienced revenue losses due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Nearly 40M went to NY based companies.
- In total, 196 school bus contractors received funding.
- The average grant was \$2.9 million.
- School bus contractors made up nearly 30% of total CERTS funding.

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## Clean School Bus Program

### Challenges

- 5-year service requirement
- Lack of Direct Contractor Access to funding

### Actions

- Legislative language correction (to match IRA)
- Engaged a separate EPA lobbyist
- Meetings with EPA, House Energy and Commerce and beyond

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## FMCSA “Under the Hood” Waiver

- NSTA has identified the “under the hood” testing requirement as a barrier of entry to becoming a school bus driver
- On January 3, 2022, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a 90-day waiver of the under-the-hood testing requirement  
In this waiver, FMCSA specifically mentioned the joint driver shortage survey that NSTA participated in.
- Since the initial Waiver, FMCSA has granted two additional 90-day waivers; and we know over 180 drivers have been licensed utilizing the waiver
- FMCSA did not renew the waiver following its expiration on September 30, 2022
- In June, NSTA submitted a 5-year Exemption Application to FMCSA, we are currently awaiting the exemption application decision

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## Upcoming NSTA Events

- **2022 Fall Conference:** November 8-10, Key Largo
- **2023 Midwinter Meeting:** January 22-25, San Diego
- **2023 Capitol Hill Bus-In:** Dates TBD, Washington D.C.
- **2023 Annual Meeting & Convention:** July 16-19, Pittsburgh

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# Questions





