



SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



a service of the Ohio School Boards Association

Issue 16-1

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This issue contains information on the following:

- 1) Changes in school bus inspections
- 2) Virtual Transportation Supervisor program starts up

1) Changes in school bus inspections

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is implementing changes in the school bus inspection program. They have started to implement these changes after reviewing them and sharing the details with the Ohio Department of Education.

We reviewed the patrol's communications on this matter and after clarifying some of the details with them, here is what we believe to be the critical points:

- The Ohio State Highway Patrol Licensing & Commercial Standards Section is currently going through a transition to put more officers on the road. This means that the troopers formerly involved in school bus inspections will be reassigned to other duties.
- The staff that will be performing the school bus inspections will be Highway Patrol civilian inspectors.
- In some cases, current civilian inspectors may be transitioning to other positions as they open up, and will be replaced by new employees.
- Schools may be asked to work with the patrol inspectors to assist in the inspection process.
- Patrol management assures us that in spite of these changes, there will be no change in the services provided during the annual and spot inspections of each school district's buses.
- Oversight of the school bus inspection process will still be a focus of the Highway Patrol, but will be accomplished by sergeants and lieutenants. These troopers have always been involved in school bus inspection, but will now be more visible to our school districts.

The patrol also reminds us that annual inspections on your buses can begin in January at the request of the school district. If you are interested in starting the annuals prior to the "typical" times of May through July, contact your local bus inspector to set up a date that is convenient.

For questions regarding this transition, contact either your local post (contact information is available on OSBA's school bus web page) or Lieutenant Doug DeBord at [\(614\) 752-4817](tel:6147524817).

A number of schools have already called to report these changes have started – and have asked what they should expect. As with any change, there is a transition time in which issues have to be resolved. As you begin to present your vehicles for inspection and interact with your MVI staff, please work with them as best you can as all parties go through the transition.

2) Virtual Transportation Supervisor program

Is your district signed up? Don't miss this opportunity to get in on a new support program at the very beginning. The Virtual Transportation Supervisor (VTS) program has been introduced to provide a new level of transportation support and information for OSBA's member districts at an affordable cost. A

single fee for the school year provides you an assortment of services through the school year. The services include:

- Regional in-service meetings that include hot topics, industry news, roundtable discussion and any issues that you bring up. These meetings are at no cost for VTS districts, and districts may send as many staff as they wish.
- Monthly quarterback calls. These webinar/conference call events will be scheduled at the beginning of each school month, and will review tasks that need to be accomplished that month, issues affecting all districts, and then will be followed by question and answer sessions by those who participate. This is a great way to 'stay in the loop' as well as accomplish your continuing education requirements from your desk.
- Financial tools including cost analysis calculators, funding estimators, efficiency studies and other web-based tools to help you assess your transportation operation. Currently these tools are available on the OSBA web for all members ... however they will be moving to a section that can only be accessed by districts enrolled in the VTS program.
- Access to OSBA's advanced transportation services library. This web-based resource serves as a one-stop resource for many of the different documents and reference materials that are essential in pupil transportation. This library is currently only available to enrollees in the MTA program, but will be made available to districts enrolled in the VTS program.
- Enrollment in VTS also ensures continued access to the OSBA school transportation update e-news letter. This is currently distributed to all school transportation staff. For districts enrolled in VTS we will add other district staff to the distribution list as requested.

If you have additional questions about this program, or to sign up for it, please contact us either by email or by phone. Call (614) 540-4000 and ask for Pete, Diana, or Jeannette, or email us at: schoolbus@ohioschoolboards.org.

Here is a link to additional information posted on the Ohio School Boards Web-site:
<http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/sites/default/files/15VirtualTranspSupervisorflier2.pdf>

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