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March 22, 2019

This communication contains information on the following:

- 1) Red light violator survey update
- 2) T-report class scheduled
- 3) Spring driving safety
- 4) Virtual Transportation Supervisor

1) We need your help on the red light violator survey!

Many districts have already sent in their red light violator surveys. If your district was on spring break, or you missed the first communication on this important survey, you can still help. Our goal is to collect as much information as possible about the number of motorists in Ohio that illegally pass school buses that are stopped for loading or unloading. Please pick a day in the upcoming weeks and ask your drivers to participate in this survey, and then send us the results.

We have created the forms for you, please download them and the instructions from the following link: [redlight violator form](#). The instructions contain specific dates for the survey . . . please disregard those dates. It is more important that we get the data at any date you can help with this project.

Please instruct drivers to pay particular attention to the instructions and safety precautions. As always, their primary duty is to the safety of their students. Please have your drivers pay particular attention to the bottom of the form where they are instructed to *“report only illegal passes that occur while the bus driver is stopped with red warning lights flashing and stop arm(s) deployed in full compliance with our state training and procedures.”*

Included in the forms link above is a district summary report. Please collect your driver's results and report them by filling out the summary sheet and returning to the Ohio School Boards Association.

2) T-report class scheduled

Your district transportation funding is dependent upon the reports that you fill out and submit to the state – including the T-1 and the T-2. An error on either of these reports can have significant impact on your district's funding.

Join us for a session that will delve into appropriate data collection, understanding what you need to track and why, and how to collate that data into an accurate state report. We will review the calendar deadlines and best practices that you need to be

comfortable with to successfully file your reports and get accurate funding.

We will also look into the use of this data to perform a district cost analysis, and show you where to find the state average data from the previous year to determine if your district is operating efficiently.

Whether you are new to transportation or a veteran, or if you work in the transportation office or the treasurer's office, this class will benefit you as we give you the tools to file correctly and get all the funding your district is entitled to.

Cost is \$100, lunch included. VTS members have been sent a code to enter when registering to receive a discount.

Wednesday, April 24, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Ohio School Boards Association, 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43235

Meeting will be held in the OSBA Board room on the first floor

Register online at Ohioschoolboards.org.

3) Spring driving safety tips

According to the Federal Highway Administration, rain contributed to 46 percent of all weather-related crashes between 2005 to 2014, and wet pavement in general accounted for 73 percent. With this in mind, professional school transportation staff need to focus on new safety and awareness tips.

Driving preparedness:

Slow down, drive carefully and increase your stopping distance when it's raining.

Don't underestimate the depth of water on the roadway. If you cannot see the pavement, do not attempt to drive through the water. One foot of water will make some vehicles float. Two feet of water can sweep vehicles away, including SUVs and pickups. Even more dangerous is the fact that flooding conditions can undermine the roadbed and sweep portions of the pavement away.

Watch for bad road conditions. Winter weather produces potholes and other driving obstacles and remember puddles can hide potholes.

Be alert for hydroplaning (when tires lose contact with the road), which will cause your vehicle to feel like it is floating on water. If this occurs, remove pressure from the accelerator, avoid turning the wheel, and gradually slow down. To avoid hydroplaning, slow down, turn off cruise control, and avoid sudden braking and turns.

Spring brings bicycle riders out of hibernation. Cyclists in the roadway can make traffic maneuvers, such as right-hand turns more difficult and dangerous.

Beware of reduced stopping ability when pavement is wet or has standing water. Not only your bus is impacted, but anticipate other traffic being unable to stop for student pick-ups or drop-offs.

Rain on mirrors can reduce image quality, and rain gear can reduce students' ability to see, so use extra caution at bus stops. Remember safety is the priority-the schedule is not.

For the complete text of this article in a downloadable format please go to the Virtual

Transportation Supervisor page at OhioSchoolBoards.org.

4) Virtual transportation supervisor program

Are you a member of OSBA's Virtual transportation supervisor (VTS) program?

If not, you might consider joining. Members have access to additional OSBA services and programs including discounts to the upcoming T-report class, new supervisor training session, cost analysis studies, T-report auditing, and an extensive online library of school transportation information including rules, regulations, school bus construction standards from multiple years.

This service has been designed to support all administrators in the district that are involved in transportation, not just the supervisor.

If you have questions about the program and would like to learn more, call our office at (614) 540-4000 and ask for Doug or Pete. We will be happy to discuss the options with you.

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<http://www.ohioschoolboards.org>

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