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SAFETY

NASDPTS Responds to Proposed Training Compliance Extension

[Nicole Schlosser](#) | Posted on August 20, 2019



NASDPTS voices support for FMCSA extending the compliance date on entry-level driver training certification and suggests including other provisions in the delay. File photo

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) voiced its support for and provided feedback on a proposal to extend the compliance date of two provisions in the entry-level driver training rule.

As [SBF previously reported](#), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association (FMCSA) announced a proposal in July that would push back the date for training providers to upload entry-level driver training (ELDT) certification information into the Training Provider Registry (TPR) and for state driver licensing agencies to receive driver-specific ELDT information would be extended from Feb. 7,

2020, to Feb. 7, 2022, according to the FMCSA's [Federal Register](#).

The extension would provide FMCSA with more time to complete development of the electronic interface that will receive and store ELDT certification information from training providers and transmit that information to the state licensing agencies. The proposed extension would also provide the agencies with enough time to modify their information technology systems and procedures as needed to receive driver-specific ELDT data from the TPR.

On Monday, NASDPTS submitted comments to the FMCSA in response, encouraging the federal agency to also include "the other, substantive provisions in the rule" in the delay.

The delay should also expand its proposed changes to the final rule to also delay the compliance date by which training providers must register for the TPR and covered driver applicants must begin receiving the specified training. One reason, NASDPTS stated in its comment to the agency, is an "unparalleled" safety record of student transportation, with passengers being "70 times more likely to arrive at school alive when they are transported in school buses, compared to the other ways students get to school."

The association added that a "bifurcated" schedule is not consistent with the fully integrated approach that was recommended by NASPDTS, and a "partial" delay can potentially cause confusion about the required actions to be taken, record keeping, enforcement, and consequences for not complying.

"Minimum requirements for entry level training of school bus drivers are already common practice," NASDPTS said in its comments, submitted by Michael LaRocco, the president of the association. "Retaining the existing requirements within the final rule, while delaying the compliance date to ensure

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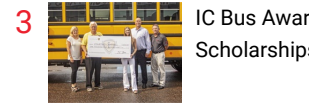


Nicole Schlosser Executive Editor

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St. Louis Public Schools partners with community organizations to train hundreds of volunteers to monitor school bus stops located in high-crime areas or near vacant lots.

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Mobile County (Ala.) Public Schools will install Fogmaker North America's fire suppression system on all of its 100 special-needs school buses. The district will eventually add the system to its remaining 600 buses.



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School Bus Songs: 'Stop When the Arm is Out'

Michigan City (Ind.) Area Schools' transportation department, also known as the "stop-arm singers," recreate The Supremes' famous "Stop in the Name of Love" — urging motorists to think twice before illegally passing a stopped school bus.



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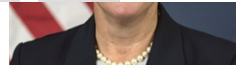
Kentucky School Bus Driver Saves Family From Mobile Home Fire

Norman Miller, a driver with Lee County School District, stops his bus to extinguish a fire on the porch of a mobile home and rescue the family inside.



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will be replaced by James Owens, the U.S. DOT's deputy general counsel.



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Kentucky Lawmaker Seeks to Require Stop-Arm Cameras on School Buses

House Rep. Robert Goforth pushes for legislation that would require school districts to purchase and install stop-arm cameras on school buses by Aug. 1, 2023.



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Ohio District to Purchase 260 School Bus Cameras

Strongsville City Schools board agrees to install interior video surveillance cameras on most of its spare buses and those that are used for daily routes and field trips.

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School Bus Songs: 'Washboard Road'

Jay Heilman, a bus driver with Pasco County (Fla.) Schools, is joined by other members of the district's transportation staff as he details the trials and triumphs of pupil transportation in his own catchy version of Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road" featuring Billy Ray Cyrus.



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5 Questions: Ted Finlayson-Schueler on Driver Training, NTSB Recommendations

Ted Finlayson-Schueler, founder of the Pupil Transportation Safety Institute and Safety Rules, talks about the need to improve driver training, ways to curtail stop-arm running, and his take on some recent National Transportation Safety Board safety recommendations.



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Keeping the Loading, Unloading Process Safe in 13 Steps


A California driver trainer details safe practices for loading and unloading. Those include executing steps consistently, practicing precise timing with lights and the door, and escorting students as they cross roadways.



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Indiana Continues School Bus Stop-Arm Running Crackdown

Gov. Eric Holcomb announces \$380,000 in grant funding for increased traffic enforcement near school bus stops across the state and a judge requires stop-arm runners in one county to appear in court.



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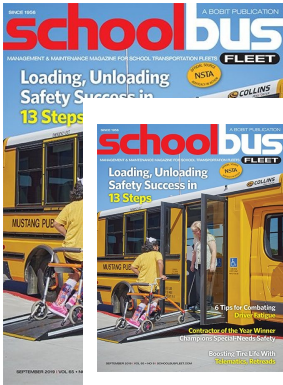
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