



National School Transportation Association

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National School Transportation Association Encourages South Carolina to Consider School Transportation Contracting as an Alternative to Costly School Bus Replacement Proposal

Alexandria, VA –The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) urges the State of South Carolina to consider school bus contracting as an alternative to the state replacement of its older school bus fleet.

South Carolina Schools Superintendent Molly Spearman recently announced her intent to ask the State Legislature for \$95 million to buy 1,000 new school buses. She added that she will also be asking for a \$7 million annual increase in school bus purchases and maintenance funding, plus another \$2.5 million per year to address employee turnover. As an alternative to this plan, NSTA offers that an expansion of school bus contracting within the state can provide an immediate influx of new school buses and save the taxpayers of the State of South Carolina millions of dollars.

With just over one-third of school districts privatized across the country, school bus contractors provide a wide range of services including, but not limited to, full service transportation, specific route service, and management only options. Contractors hire district employees, saving the district money, creating job security for employees and ensuring that traveling children continue to see a familiar driver on their school bus.

School bus contractors are ready to assist the state of South Carolina and its school children with the safest and most secure, environmentally-responsible and cost-effective school transportation solutions available.

As a resource to better help those interested in contracting assess its true cost, NSTA offers its School Transportation Cost Analysis calculator. This helpful resource takes every component into consideration, including, but not limited to: salaries and wages, benefits, training and testing, facilities and vehicles. That calculator can be accessed on the NSTA website at: <http://www.yellowbuses.org/school-administrator/school-transportation-cost-analysis/>.

About NSTA:

The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for over 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Offices are at 122 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-684-3200. Fax: 703-684-3212.