



National School Transportation Association

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NSTA Applauds Governor Haley for School Bus Privatization Initiative in South Carolina

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) enthusiastically commends South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley in her support for the use of private companies to meet school bus needs in South Carolina. In her first State of the State Address, Governor Haley urged lawmakers to use school bus contracting as a way to alleviate the State's budget crisis and allow the State to modernize the fleet with newer and cleaner buses for the benefit of the State's schoolchildren. South Carolina currently possesses the oldest fleet in the nation. NSTA concurs with Governor Haley that school bus contracting saves state and local dollars and allows education professionals to focus limited resources on the classroom. Private school bus contractors deliver safe, efficient and professional transportation to over a third of the nation's schoolchildren each and every day. Studies have shown that private companies can save up to 25% of student transportation costs, often employing the same drivers and replacing aging vehicles more frequently than public systems.

On January 17^h, 2011, NSTA President Donald Fowler sent Governor Haley and other newly elected Governors a letter outlining the many benefits of school bus contracting. Mr. Fowler said, "We realize that in these economic times, you face difficult budgetary choices, including adequate funding for the education of the children of your State. Contracting for auxiliary school services like transportation, food service, and custodial service is an excellent tool school boards can use to keep a narrower focus on the business of educating and put more dollars in the classroom through the savings realized from contracted services" (letter attached). Today, Mr. Fowler said, "We are pleased that Governor Haley heeded our call that private school bus contractors can be an important part of the solution to the budget crisis facing South Carolina and NSTA stands ready to help to implement this important change. We look forward to working with Governor Haley, and Members of the state legislature to help the State transition to privately contracted buses, and welcome the opportunity to work with many other Governors facing budget issues as well."

NSTA, the voice of the private school bus industry, has many tools available to educate Governors, state and local legislators and school administrators about the multiple benefits of school bus contracting. The NSTA website at www.yellowbuses.org contains detailed information on how school bus contracting works, tools to assist in assessing and comparing costs of school transportation, and finding a contractor.

About NSTA

The National School Transportation Association is a trade organization representing school bus contractors; that is, private companies that own and operate school buses and contract with school districts to provide pupil transportation. For over 40 years, it has been dedicated to safe, secure and efficient transportation of children, and works to foster improvements in all areas of pupil transportation. Members range from small one- or two-bus companies to larger corporate entities operating more than 1,000 school buses in multiple states. Offices are at 113 South West St., 4th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: (703) 684-3200 or (800) 222-NSTA. Fax (703) 684-3212. Email: info@yellowbuses.org