



# 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress on School Transportation

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May 31, 2019

**Johnny Key**  
Commissioner of Education  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four State Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Commissioner Key:

In 2015 the 16<sup>th</sup> National Congress on School Transportation (NCST) met in Des Moines, Iowa to revise and update the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures (NSTSP; available at [www.NCSTOnline.org](http://www.NCSTOnline.org)). Since 1939 the congresses have met every five to ten years to develop and update school bus specifications and operational procedures and guidelines for student transportation. These guidelines, along with federal, state, and local regulations, have resulted in America's school children having the safest, most effective, and reliable transportation in the world, the yellow school bus. The 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress on School Transportation will convene in Des Moines, Iowa from May 17-20, 2020.

The Congress's procedures specify that the selection of the chairperson for each state's delegation shall be made by the chief state school officer (CSSO) as head of the state education agency, except when leadership of the state's pupil transportation program resides in another agency in which the designated or acting state director of pupil transportation is employed.

Each delegate's employing/sponsoring agency or organization will be responsible for registration and travel costs associated with the Congress. Registration fees are nominal and cover the cost of the Congress, including the associated group meals.

We respectfully request that you appoint your state's director of student transportation or the person serving in that role as State Delegation Chair by July 31, 2019 and confirm the appointment to me ([Patrick.McManamon@vermont.gov](mailto:Patrick.McManamon@vermont.gov)). I will then contact your designee in August with guidelines on selecting the state's delegation. Each state will be permitted seven delegates, plus alternates as needed. All revisions to the NSTSP are decided by the delegates in parliamentary deliberation during the Congress. Each state delegation is allowed one vote per state on issues discussed.

The NCST Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from national organizations directly involved in student transportation. The sponsoring organizations are the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), the National School Transportation Association (NSTA), and the National Safety Council (NSC). The Steering Committee sets policies, guidelines, and priorities and plans, organizes and conducts the Congress. The sponsoring organizations provide support services to the Steering Committee and the Congress.

*Sponsoring Organizations:*

*National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services  
National Association for Pupil Transportation  
National School Transportation Association  
National Safety Council*

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The NCST has appointed writing committees, which are responsible for reviewing and discussing proposed changes to the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures (the NSTSP). Each writing committee is preparing recommendations for revisions to the NSTSP be taken up by state delegations at the Congress. Writing committee membership is made up of individuals who represent all segments of student transportation and all regions of the country.

On behalf of the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress on School Transportation and the Steering Committee I want to extend our thanks for your support and assistance. If you have any questions please contact me at (802) 828-3757 or [Patrick.McManamon@vermont.gov](mailto:Patrick.McManamon@vermont.gov). I look forward to hearing from you and working with your State Delegation Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick McManamon", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick McManamon  
17<sup>th</sup> NCST Steering Committee

CC: Jerry Owens