

# Raising the Bar I

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Based on the New NYSED Pre-service  
Unit I:

## **An Introduction to School Transportation**

# Logistics

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- Parking
- Bathrooms
- Emergency exits
- Smoking
- Breaks
- Cell phones/ pagers
- CPR/First Aid/  
Defibrillator



# Today's Presentation Goals

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At the end of this presentation you will:

- Be able to identify at least five staff responsibilities for safe transportation
- Be committed to being a professional and ready to serve as a role model
- Study and live the *Professional Standards of the New York State School Bus Staff*



# Why are we here?

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- *The purpose of this refresher is to give you tools to safely transport school children. If anything we discuss in this class is confusing, concerning, or difficult for you, say so at once. Asking questions is the sign of a professional. You are responsible for learning this important material. Your student passengers depend on it.*



# Brainstorm

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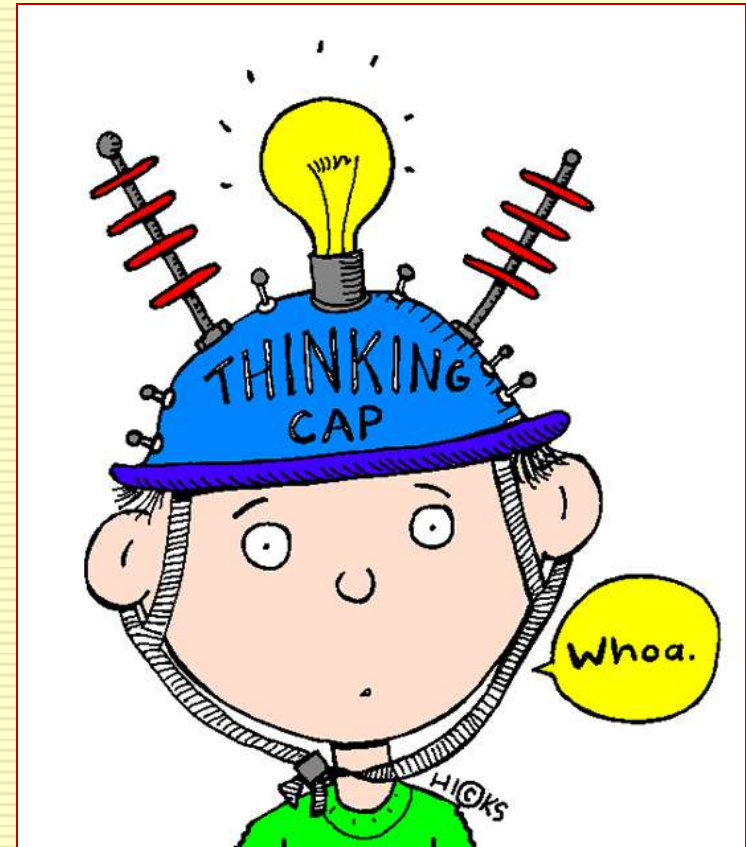


- Brainstorming means everyone contributes and no answer is criticized
- List what it means to be a professional.
- List responsibilities of school bus monitors, attendants and bus drivers

# Bus Staff Responsibilities

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- Student safety
- Defensive driving
- Care of children
- Professional conduct
- Ready for change!
- Ready for work
- Under control
- Tolerance



# Student Safety is the Priority

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- ❑ No matter what happens, your main responsibility is always protecting the students on your bus, or in the process of getting on or off.
- ❑ Think of a child you know who will be getting on a school bus.





# Defensive Driving

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- Be a Defensive Driver/ Observer at all times
- Predict other motorist actions
- Tune out students
- Adjust to conditions
- Make “Safety Judgments”
- Attendant as co-pilot





# Care and Custody of Children

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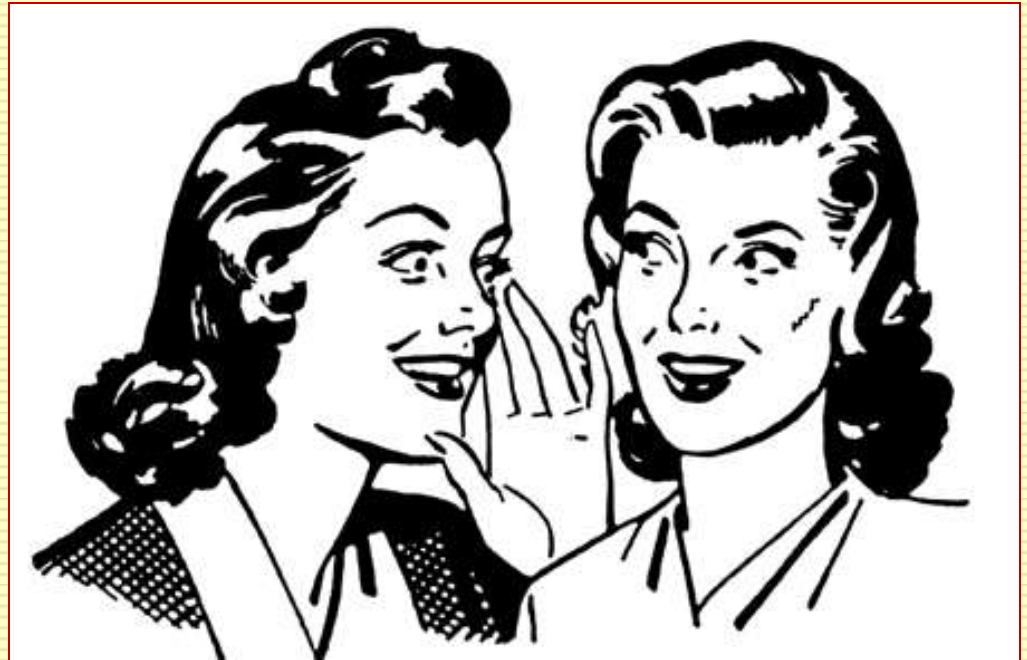
- You are responsible!
- “In loco parentis”
- Who has custody?
- Don't:
  - Ignore problems
  - Change a stop
  - Leave a child alone
  - Don't neglect the post-trip



# Language, Appearance & Conduct

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- Always be a professional
- Neat, clean appearance
- Neat, clean bus
- Clean language
- Report incidents honestly
- Maintain confidentiality



# The speed of what?

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- How fast does news spread these days?
- Why should you be the first one to report an incident?
- Someone is always listening or recording
- Before you act, think how that will look on YouTube.



# Flexibility and Reliability

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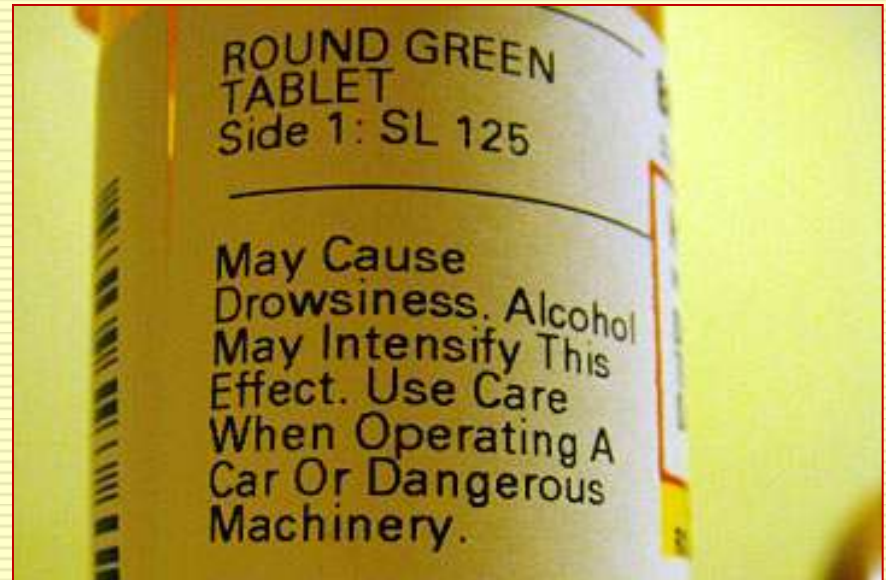
- Ready for change!
- Cooperative problem-solving
- Dependable, on-time a must
- Regular driver and monitor are the safest
- Sense of humor 😊



# Physically Ready

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- Report all conditions to examiner
- PPT
- Adequate rest
  - Hours of labor
  - 8 hours rest
  - 10 hours driving
  - 15 hours on duty
- Drugs/Alcohol and buses don't mix
- Legal drugs can impair you too!





# Self Control

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- Children can be great
- ...and difficult
- Be the adult!
- NEVER:
  - Hit, grab
  - Curse, scream
  - Brake to punish
  - Put off a child



# What makes you push it?

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- What is it that kids do that makes you crazy?
- What do you do to keep it under control?





# Tolerance

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- ❑ Children from every race, language, culture and class
- ❑ Protect, respect, engage, care for all
- ❑ Learn cultural and religious differences
- ❑ Be a role model



# Who's Riding your Bus?

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- Recent refugee populations
- Specific cultural groups
- Close knit religious communities
- Non-English languages
- What have you learned about these groups?
- What more would you like to know?
- Would that help?



# Every Day, Every Way

## Professional Standards of the New York State School Bus Staff

- What is most important to you? Mark with an **"I"**
- What is easiest for you? **E**
- What is hardest for you? **H**
- What do you think is done most consistently? **C**
- Which is NOT consistent? **N**

### Handout

#### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BUS STAFF** *As a professional school bus driver, attendant or monitor...*

##### **I will:**

- Always place student safety first.
- Do what I can to protect a child just as a responsible parent would in similar circumstances.
- Exercise sound safety judgment when confronted with an unforeseen situation.
- Continually scan for hazards in the environment and respond appropriately.
- Stay focused on safe transportation in spite of distractions.
- Perform a professional pre-trip, carefully inspecting every vehicle I drive every day to make sure it is safe before transporting children.
- Account for every child assigned to my bus, including completing a professional post-trip check for sleeping or hiding children left on board at the end of my run.
- Conduct myself in a mature and professional manner at all times in matters of language, appearance and hygiene, cleanliness of the bus, and emotional self-control.
- Be reliable and punctual.
- Be honest and promptly report any incident, accident, problem, or mistake.
- Treat information about students and students' families as confidential.
- Arrive for work physically and mentally prepared for my responsibilities.
- Demonstrate flexibility regarding route changes and vehicle assignments.
- Treat children, parents, school personnel, and co-workers with tolerance, compassion, civility, and respect regardless of background.
- Learn and abide by all federal, state, and local school bus laws, regulations, recommendations, and policies.

##### **I will not:**

- Knowingly ignore any situation that could place a child at risk.
- Change a route or bus stop without authorization.
- Attempt to transport students when impaired by drugs, alcohol, personal medication, or fatigue.

# Compare Answers in 2's or 3's

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- What did you most agree on?
- What surprised you most about other's answers?
- How important is it to have standards?
- Does it change how you think about your job?
- How could it change your operation?

# Unit 1 Review

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1. “No matter what happens, your main priority as a school bus driver, monitor or attendant is

\_\_\_\_\_.”

2. “To be treated as a professional, you must act like a

\_\_\_\_\_.”

3. Which statement below is NOT true?

a. *You can drive bus at 6 a.m. if you returned from a trip at 11 p.m. the night before*

b. *You can't drive more than 10 hours a day*

c. *You can't be on duty more than 15 hours/day*

d. *Driving school bus while fatigued is dangerous*

# Unit 1 Review (cont.)

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4. T or F? “Some medications are unsafe to use while driving a school bus.”
5. T or F? “Tolerance for people’s differences is a job requirement in today’s world.”
6. Which actions are unacceptable?
  - a. *Hitting the brakes hard to make students sit down*
  - b. *Making fun of a student’s family or home*
  - c. *Pushing a child into the seat*
  - d. *All the above*
7. What are five responsibilities for safe transportation?



# In closing, you are...

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## New York State School Bus Attendants, Drivers and Monitors

- Well-trained
- Physically fit
- Tolerant
- Responsible
- Professional
- Proud



***CONGRATULATIONS!***