March 6, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Alabama’s Best School Bus Technician and Inspector Competition

The Alabama School Transportation Association (ASTA), in association with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), will again conduct a competition to recognize Alabama’s best school bus technician and school bus inspector. The competition is scheduled as a part of the ASTA Annual Conference in Montgomery, Alabama, on June 8-12, 2015. This competition is a part of the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) America’s Best School Bus Technician and School Bus Inspector Training and Skills Competition (America’s Best Technician Challenge). The competition will be limited to 20 school bus technicians and 20 school bus inspectors.

Any ALSDE-certified mechanic is eligible to participate in the competition in either category. Participants must be a full-time employee of a school system or contractor, hold a current Alabama School Bus Mechanic Certificate issued by the ALSDE, and be recommended by his/her transportation supervisor. The deadline for submitting an entry form is May 8, 2015. An official entry form is enclosed and there is no entry fee for the competition. Contestants selected for participation in the competition will be notified no later than May 15, 2015.

Alabama is fortunate to have many outstanding mechanics. Last year’s winners for both Technician and Inspector categories, were from Alabama, a feat never accomplished by any other state in the history of the competition. This competition is a great opportunity for mechanics to demonstrate their skills and also share information with their counterparts from other school systems. Therefore, your support of this event is encouraged. In preparation for the competition, participants should focus on the school bus safety inspection process (specifications) and on the general repair procedures mechanics use every day.

A state winner will be selected from both the technician and inspector categories and recognized at the ASTA Conference. Both winners will also be entered in the NAPT America’s Best Technician Challenge, which will be held in Richmond, Virginia, on November 6-10, 2015. Travel costs for the national competition will be paid by the ASTA and other sponsors. Information concerning the national competition can be found on the America’s Best Technician Challenge Web site at www.americasbesttech.org. A link to this Web site can also be found on the ALSDE Web site under the Pupil Transportation Section.

If you have questions regarding the competition, contact Mr. Kevin Snowden, Alabama State Department of Education Coordinator for Pupil Transportation, at (334) 242-9730.

TRB/KS/JL

Enclosures

c: City and County Transportation Supervisors
Mr. Dennis Coe
Mr. Kevin Snowden
Mr. Jeff Duke
Transportation Staff

FY15-3020
Alabama’s Best School Bus Technician Challenge

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM – 2015
(This form may be duplicated as necessary)

A separate entry form must be completed for each contestant. Entry forms should be faxed to Mr. Kevin Snowden, Coordinator, Pupil Transportation, Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) at 334-353-7953. Questions regarding the technician’s challenge competition should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Duke, Chairperson, at 256-264-3726. There is no entry fee.

 Contestants selected for participation in the competition will be notified by the ALSDE no later than May 15, 2015.

School System: ____________________________________________ School System Phone Number: ( )

Name of Contestant: ________________________________________ Name of Supervisor: ____________________________

Contestant’s Home Address: ______________________________________________________________

City: ________________________ State: ________________________ Zip: ______________________________

Competition Category: (Circle only one) Technician Inspector

Important: At registration, each participant must present a completed entry form including the supervisor’s signature.

National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT) America’s Best Technician Challenge Rules will apply. A copy of these rules can be found on the ALSDE Web site at www.alsde.edu under section Pupil Transportation and then Publications.

I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. I release the Alabama School Transportation Association (ASTA); the ALSDE; the planning committee and any affiliates thereof, from any liability and any right of action that might arise from any damage or injury that I may receive from attending or participating in this competition.
2. I agree to comply with all orders, rules and regulations governing the Alabama School Association and America’s Best Technician Challenge.
3. I hereby certify and affirm that I have been employed by the school system named above as a fulltime school bus mechanic or inspector during the current school year.

Signature of Applicant: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

By signing below, I recommend the above-named mechanic for participation in the America’s Best Technician Challenge.

Signature of Transportation Supervisor: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

 Contestants selected for participation in the competition will be notified by the ALSDE no later than May 15, 2015.

Date, Time and Location:

Date: June 9, 2015
Location: Union Station Train Shed
300 Water Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Time: Registration from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Directions to the location of the competition can be found on the ALSDE Web site at www.alsde.edu. You may also call 334-242-9730 for written directions.