March 4, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO:        City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM:      Thomas R. Bice
           State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT:  2016 Alabama School Transportation Association Conference

The 74th Annual Alabama School Transportation Association (ASTA) Conference will be held in Mobile, Alabama, June 6-10, 2016, at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. The conference program will again offer an excellent selection of training sessions, as well as the America’s Best School Bus Technician and School Bus Inspector Training and Skills Competition. Conference topics will include: “hands-on” topics like Multiplex Wiring and Air Conditioning Maintenance, Legislative and Legal Updates, Compliance Review Process, Special Needs Transportation, and more. A special part of the conference will be the trade show that will feature local, state, and national vendors. Alabama’s school bus dealers will also provide information about their new buses and other products.

This year’s America’s Best Technician Challenge is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at the Mobile County Transportation Department. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. with the competition beginning at 8 a.m. Any Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) certified mechanic is eligible to participate in this competition. Questions regarding the competition should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Duke at 256-264-3726. There is no fee for participation in this event.

The ALSDE and local school systems in Alabama have supported this conference since its beginning. The conference has always provided excellent training for transportation supervisors and office personnel, shop personnel, and other key persons in our local transportation programs. Therefore, I strongly encourage your system’s participation. A conference registration form and other conference information are included with this memorandum. However, all conference materials and entry forms for all events, including America’s Best Technician Challenge and the School Bus Road-e-o, can be found on the ALSDE Web site at www.alsde.edu under Department Offices/Pupil Transportation/Documents. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-922-3298. The cut-off date for reserving a room at $129.00 is May 6, 2016, so please make your reservation early.

The annual School Bus Road-e-o will again be held apart from the conference at the Alabama Traffic Safety Center at the University of Montevallo on June 16, 2016. Entry forms and other information regarding the road-e-o will be sent to school systems in early May. There is no fee for participation in this event.

ASTA President, Mr. Hank Summerford, Transportation Supervisor for the Morgan County Schools, and the ASTA Board of Directors have worked hard to provide an excellent, but inexpensive training opportunity for your transportation personnel. Travel expenses for the conference are eligible transportation expenditures. In order to help with conference planning and preparation, please register and reserve your lodging at the host hotel as early as possible.

If you have questions regarding the conference or conference events, please contact Mr. Summerford at 256-309-2135 or the ALSDE Pupil Transportation Section at 334-242-9730.

TRB/KS/JL

Enclosures

cc: City, County, and Contract Transportation Supervisors
    School Bus Dealers
    Mr. Andy Craig
    Dr. Dennis Coe
    Mr. Kevin Snowden
    Mr. Hank Summerford

FY16-3016
ALABAMA SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
74th Annual ASTA Summer Conference
Mobile, Alabama
June 6-10, 2016

Please complete a separate registration form for each member no later than May 9, 2016. Member and guest registration fees must accompany this form.

Registration Form
Please type or print legibly. Name badge will be printed from the information provided.
Name: ___________________________ Spouse: ___________________________
Title: ___________________________ Children: ___________________________
Organization: ____________________
Address: _________________________ _________________________________
Phone: __________________________ _________________________________

Do you plan to participate in one or both of the following: (circle one)
Golf Tournament: Yes No (June 6, 2016) Any guests listed above? # of ___
Deep Sea Fishing: Yes No (June 6, 2016) Any guests listed above? # of ___

PRE-REGISTRATION
$30.00 (for employee/member and one guest) $10.00 (each additional guest)

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<tr>
<th>Pre-Registration no later than</th>
<th>Member and One Guest ($30.00)*</th>
<th>Each Additional Guest ($10.00 x # of guests)</th>
<th>Total Amount</th>
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<td>May 9, 2016</td>
<td>$______________________________</td>
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LATE-REGISTRATION
$50.00 (for employee/member and one guest) $15.00 (each additional guest)

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<tr>
<th>Late Registration after May 9, 2016</th>
<th>Member and One Guest ($50.00)*</th>
<th>Each Additional Guest ($15.00 x # of guests)</th>
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* Guest cannot be a transportation employee. Employees must register as a member.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ASTA

Return registration form and registration fees to:
Morgan County Schools
Transportation Department
235 Highway 67 South
Decatur, Alabama 35603
ATTENTION: Hank Summerford, ASTA President
Alabama’s Best School Bus Technician and School Bus Inspector Training and Skills Competition

Alabama’s Best School Bus Technician Challenge

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM – 2016
(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 16, 2016.

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 Website 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 16, 2016.

Date, Time and Location:

Date: June 7, 2016
Location: Mobile County Transportation Dept.
3274 International Drive
Mobile, AL 36606
Time: Registration from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.