



**National Association
of State Directors
of Pupil Transportation Services**

November 9, 2015

***NASDPTS Encouraged by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Support
for Installation of Lap/shoulder Safety Belts in School Buses***

Richmond, Virginia- In joint remarks yesterday to attendees at the annual conferences of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) and the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), Dr. Mark R. Rosekind, NHTSA Administrator, updated the agency's position on equipping new school buses with three-point lap/shoulder safety belts.

In his [remarks](#) Dr. Rosekind reminded attendees that school buses are already the safest means of transportation for students, and stated that, "We lose too many children – more than 450 each year – who die in personal vehicles on the way to and from school." This compares to about four fatalities each year to school bus riders. Rosekind added, "The position of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is that seat belts save lives. That is true whether in a passenger car or in a big yellow bus. And saving lives is what we are about. So NHTSA's policy is that every child on every school bus should have a three-point seat belt."

Following the remarks, Leon Langley, NASDPTS President, stated, "We are encouraged by the Administrator's remarks about the agency's position. It supports our [Position Paper](#), 'The Equipping and Use of Passenger Lap/Shoulder Belts in School Buses, February 2014,' and is consistent with it." In the paper, NASDPTS stated, "lap/shoulder belt equipped seats should be encouraged as an option when considering new bus original equipment specifications." Dr. Rosekind also said, "We will use every tool at (the agency's) disposal," to bring about the goal. Langley added, "We believe this support from NHTSA will trigger discussions by federal, state and local agencies about how resources can be allocated to begin putting three-point belts in new school buses throughout the nation."

Langley concluded, "We know that parents can be confident in the world's safest form of student transportation, the yellow school bus. We also know that three-point lap/shoulder belts are a proven safety technology that has saved thousands of lives in nearly all forms of surface transportation vehicles for over 40 years."

For information and to contact NASDPTS, please go to www.nasdpts.org.