



## NEW YORK SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION 2011 Budget and Legislative Priorities

The New York School Bus Contractors Association is an organization comprising over two hundred pupil transportation companies transporting 1.3 mil children a day with the primary mission of promoting safe, reliable and cost-effective student transportation services in New York State.

### 1. 2011-2012 Budget (S.2808-a/A.4008-a) Education / Article VII:

- **NYSBCA opposes the bill in its current form – see attached letter to Governor Cuomo**
- We recommend rejecting the Governor's Budget proposal relating to changes in the way transportation aid is allocated or amend it to improve transparency, effectiveness and include pupil transportation contractors.
- The Governor recommends changes to the transportation aid program to encourage cost-effective management of school district transportation operations. Districts must, by the end of the 2012-13 school year, demonstrate participation in a cost-effective shared services program with another district or government entity or demonstrate participation in the use of "best practices" as identified by the SED. Schools that fail to implement cost-effective strategies will lose transportation funding starting in 2013-14 school year.
- This proposal does not guarantee improved efficiencies, fails to include private contractors and does not require school districts to reveal the actual cost of transportation operations.

### 2. Property Tax Cap (A3982/S2706 – Governor Cuomo's Proposal – Passed Senate):

- **NYSBCA opposes the bill in its current form.**
- Should this become law and a school district fail to pass its budget, one of the unintended consequences will be a reduction in the busing mileage limitations. Schools will not be allowed to pick up high school students beyond 3 miles and elementary students beyond 2 miles. Many of NY's children will be forced to walk to school.
- The Governor's proposal reverts back to the 1980's when school budgets would fail, students were forced to walk to school and the number of accidents involving students walking to school increased.
- The Tax Cap proposal must be amended to remove the section that rescinds Section 2023 of the Education Law.

### 3. Amend the Transportation Law to allow reflectorized signs on school buses:

NY is one of two states that has not updated its law to allow reflectorized signs on the front and back of school buses. S.1352-a/A.1430-a will have their enacting clauses stricken and new bills will be introduced in both houses because of RoAnn Destito's appointment as Commissioner of Office of General Services. (Fuschillo/Dilan in the Senate)

### 4. Update State Education Department's pupil transportation contract extension formula, which utilizes the (CPI-U), by amending Section 305 of the Education Law:

This legislation will allow school districts that are extending pupil transportation contracts to use as a cap, either the current year's CPI-U or an average of the five previous years, whichever is higher. Current law allows for current year's CPI-U only. New bills will be introduced this session. (2010 legislation: S.7231-a/Valesky and A11164/Towns)

### 5. Extend/make permanent the current RFP Law for pupil transportation contracts:

Extend current law or repeal the sunset provisions relating to the use of Request for Proposals for pupil transportation contracts – current law expires on June 30, 2012. The Law allows school districts to award transportation contracts based on numerous factors -- not just low-bid. A.823/Gantt same as (Senate Bill will be reintroduced)

### 6. Sales Tax Credit for the Purchase of a School Bus:

Provides school bus operators with a refund or credit of sales and compensating use taxes on the purchase of school buses, equipment and fuel used in the operation of a school bus.



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