



*Press Release
NCST Update*

November 7, 2019

Montpelier, Vermont- Since 1939 the National Congresses (formerly Conferences) on School Transportation have been held periodically with the primary objective of ensuring safe, efficient transportation for school children. Since 1980, the 300-plus delegates from around the country who comprise the NCST have convened each five years.

The 17th Congress will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, May 17-20, 2020. During the Congress, delegates from the states and territories will discuss, debate and ultimately vote on whether a change introduced by a specific Writing Committee will be included in the 2020 edition of the National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures manual (the NSTSP). The NSTSP is used by states, industry and others as a reference guide when drafting legislation, rules, policies and procedures.

This week the NCST Steering Committee met in Columbus, Ohio. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from four sponsoring organizations, the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (including the School Bus Manufacturers Technical Council), the National Association for Pupil Transportation, the National School Transportation Association, and the National Safety Council.

Writing Committees have been busy researching changes to the 2015 NSTSP requested by interested parties. These committees are made up of experts in their field who are committed to maintaining the unparalleled safety the nation's yellow school buses provide to their student passengers.

Earlier this year, state agency heads were asked to designate the chair of their state's delegation to the Congress. Within the next month state delegation chairs will receive instructions on appointing their delegates and registering them online. Shortly thereafter, the recommended changes to the NSTSP will be distributed to each state chair for distribution to their delegations. Comments received from states will be considered by the respective Writing Committees, and the final recommended changes will be drafted.

In May, the state delegations will come together at the Congress to deliberate and vote on the proposed changes following parliamentary procedure. Each state represented may have up to seven delegates on the floor, representing a variety of student transportation interests, with each state's delegation having one vote.

For more information please visit www.ncstonline.org or contact Patrick McManamon, Chair of the 17th NCST Steering Committee, at Patrick.McManamon@vermont.gov or (802) 828-3757.

Patrick McManamon
Chair, NCST Steering Committee

###

www.NCSTOnline.org