

# IPTA School Bus Stop

## Iowa Pupil Transportation Association



We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and have had a smooth and safe beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you to everyone that attended this year's conference and trade-show in Des Moines! We set an attendance record with 241 registered, and we believe that everyone found something interesting to attend during the comprehensive and informational training sessions. The first annual corn hole tournament turned out to be a little competitive and we even had a little controversy. However, everyone had a very fun time!

On Monday afternoon July 15, 2019, the IPTA, in conjunction with Dave Hallman and his team of crash specialists, coordinated a live school bus rollover crash demonstration using an International school bus furnished by the **Hoglund Bus Company**. The bus was equipped with lap-shoulder seat belts furnished by **SafeGuard/IMMI**.



The interior camera system was furnished by **REI** and provided some amazing video of the 8 crash dummies that took the ride. GPS equipment was furnished and installed by **Tyler Technologies**.

Take a few minutes and check out our IPTA website/Quick Links to view any of our IPTA sustaining member websites and for all of the photos and videos from the 2019 conference and trade show at: [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org) - Have a great school 2019-2020 year!



**September 1, 2019 Volume 45, Issue 1**  
**56 years of serving student transportation in Iowa.**

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## 56th Annual IPTA Conference Presentations - Day One

"Thank you" to all of the conference presenters from the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association Board of Directors!



IPTA Board of Directors from the left: Merrell Mueller, Carlos Guerra, Kim Ensminger, Nathan Beal, Bobbie Finley, Leo Reigelsberger, Randy Merrigan, Betty Golay, Chrid Plendl, Woody Harden, Mike Wiederholt, Chris Darling and Julie Nemmers



6:00 a.m. packing conference attendee bags and then registration begin at 7:30 a.m. for the 241 registered attendees.



**Julie Nemmers**, IPTA Board President, welcomed everyone on the first day of the 56th Annual IPTA Conference and Trade Show



The IPTA conference opened with **Michele Beckjord**, Senior Project Investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). She reviewed accidents from all over the nation and here in Iowa. **Max Christensen** led a great discussion during this session.

Keynote Speaker, **Mark Robinson** mesmerized the crowd with his magical and funny message pertaining to failure in our lives and never giving up. He had some assistance from State of Iowa School Bus Inspector, Joe Funk.



After a relaxing luncheon by the pool, the afternoon began with the session: Lessons Learned from Courts & Case Law with **Dr. Linda Bluth ED.D, Consultant, Maryland State Department of Education.**

After Linda's program everyone loaded school buses provided by the Interstate 35 school district for the ride out to DMACC Truck and Training Center for the IPTA school bus crash demonstration.







**56th Annual IPTA Conference Presentations - Day One**  
**"School Bus Evacuation Drill Demonstration!"**



Conference attendees unloading at the DMACC Truck & Training Center from the six Interstate 35 CSD school buses. The IPTA handed out free hats for a little protection from the sun. We were lucky to have a 15 mph breeze and some occasional clouds that blocked out a little sunshine. The first red tent and school bus was provided by the Hoglund Bus Company, and the second white tent was the Thomas Bus Sales location. Both companies had representatives that spent time with conference attendees reviewing new and innovative bus safety technologies, electronic stability control and collision mitigation. Several attendees had a chance to take the new school bus for a demonstration ride.



After everyone settled on the bleachers while the crash demonstration preparations were being completed and the 8 crash dummies were being situated, attendees had a chance to witness 2 school bus evacuations. Two buses from the Des Moines CSD were used for the evacuation demonstration and both were parked side-by-side right in front of the bleachers. One bus had lap-shoulder seat belts and one did not.



Thirty-seven students grades K-6 from SE Polk CSD were transported to DMACC by Dan Schultz for the timed evacuation drills. Some of the younger students had never been on a school bus before, but were ready to give it a try. The first evacuation drill was completed on the bus without seat belts using a two door evacuation in 1 minute and 6 seconds. With the same students the second evacuation drill was completed in less than 42 seconds using the same two door evacuation with the addition of lap-shoulder seat belts. So what does that prove? The second evacuation drill with lap-shoulder seat belts was faster for possibly two reasons: 1. A few more students (4-5) went out the front door and 2. They were 24 seconds faster because they had just practiced an evacuation, and knew exactly what to do the second time. What these two tests did show is that properly trained students can evacuate a bus with lap-shoulder seat belts as fast as one without seat belts.





## 56th Annual IPTA Conference Presentations - Day One "School Bus Crash Demonstration!"



### Everything did not go as planned!

The goal was to roll the bus over to show what would happen to the four crash dummies that were not in lap-shoulder seat belts. What we ended up with was a 40 mph head on collision that could occur on any school bus route in Iowa or the nation on any given day. The cabin of the school bus held up very well as they are designed to take a lot of damage.

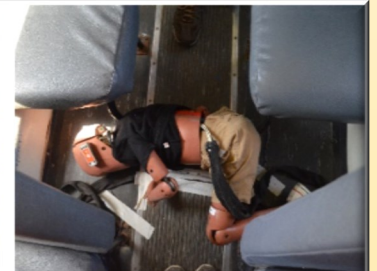
However, the precious cargo that was not in lap-shoulder seat belts did not fare as well. Everyone had a chance to look in the windows, and walk through the bus after the crash demonstration to see it first hand. The crash dummies in lap-shoulder seat belts were seated nicely before, during and after the crash. The non-belted crash dummies were on the floor and under the seats.



Before

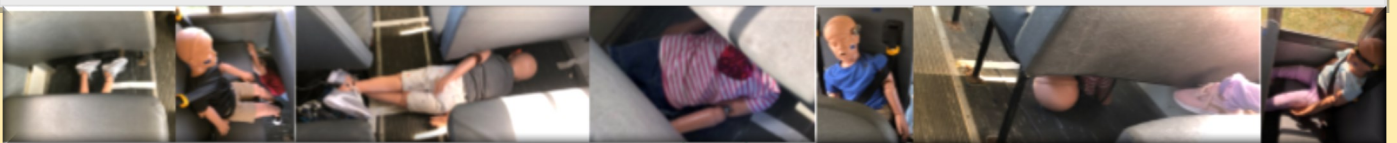


During



After

The video clearly shows the 3 crash dummies disappear from view while being tossed out of their seats and hitting the floor and metal seat supports. The 2 crash dummies with lap-shoulder seat belts are still in their seats before, during and after the crash demonstration. We believe that this test proved that lap-shoulder seat belts in conjunction with compartmentalization would greatly improve student rider safety.







# 2019 IPTA Award Recipients



**IPTA Members Receive Awards at the 56th Annual IPTA Transportation Conference and Trade Show.**



**Tom Horn "Memorial" Award: Tim Lyons, Benton CSD  
Pictured with Nancy Horn & Gary Zittergruen**



**Holly Hoglund Klein, Iowa Woman in Transportation Award Recipient:  
Betty Golay, Iowa Christian Academy, pictured with Julie Nemmers,  
Family, and Friends**



**Longevity Award: Debra McDonald,  
(34 Years) Wayne CSD,  
Pictured with family & Bobbie Finley**



**Longevity Award: Gerald Selken,  
(27 Years) Benton CSD - Pictured  
here with Betty Golay**



**Longevity Award: Ken Doktor, (28 years)  
Sioux Center CSD - Pictured here accepting the  
award, Scott Shippy and Chris Plendl**



**Heroism Award: Randy Merrigan, Sioux City CSD pictured with Troy Thomas ,  
Jeff Brown, Brian Fahrendholz, Dave Le Gree, and Kim Enslinger**



**Longevity Award: Dean DeHaven (47 years)  
Delwood CSD - Pictured here accepting the award,  
Todd Hawley and Woody Harden**

Luncheon sponsored by the Auto-Jet Muffler Company. Congratulations to all of these very dedicated individuals for everything that they have done over the years in the service of the students in their communities.



## DERA Grant and Other Information

### SCHOOL BUS



Greg Zilberfarb

Steve Whaley

Jay Christie

The Iowa Clean Cities Coalition, Iowa Propane Gas Association and the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) hosted an Autogas Answers event on June 13.

Deb Grooms, IPGA, gave the opening and welcome remarks. MK Anderson, coordinator of the Iowa Clean Cities, gave an overview of the event. Greg Zilberfarb and Steve Whaley from PERC, spoke about the benefits of propane autogas. Bobbie Finely, Transportation Director for Interstate 35 Schools gave a case study on propane school buses in their district. Jay Christie, from New Century FS, gave an update on propane fueling options for propane school buses.



Chris Darling IPTA, Deb Grooms, MK Anderson

Attendees

MK Anderson, Bobbie Finely

### David Johnson

#### New IPTA Board Member



The Iowa Pupil Transportation Association would like to welcome David Johnson, Transportation Director at the Van Meter Community School District to the IPTA Board of Directors.



Julie Nemmers



and Carlos Guerra

were both re-elected as the IPTA Board of Directors as President and Vice President. This is the 5th year they will hold these positions.

Randy Merrigan and Christopher Plendl also were re-elected for 3 year IPTA board terms during the 56th Annual School Transportation Conference and Trade Show.

We wish our former board member and friend, Mike Wiederholt, the best in whatever he chooses to do in the future.

### Iowa DOT accepting applications through Sept. 16 for DERA.

AMES, Iowa – Aug. 6, 2019 – The Iowa Department of Transportation is now accepting grant applications for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fiscal Year 2019 Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) for diesel fleets in the state of Iowa.

As part of the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#), DERA is designed to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions among on-road or non-road vehicles and equipment, including school buses, medium- and heavy-duty transit buses and trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and nonroad engines, equipment, or vehicles.

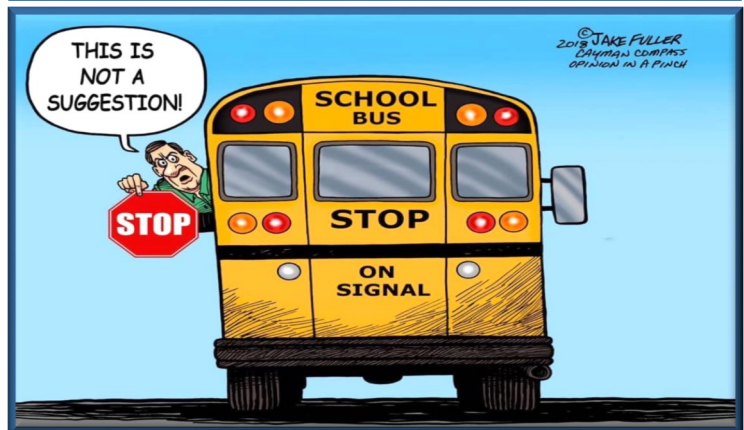
Iowa school districts, transit systems, or company fleet managers should go to the [DERA grant website](#) to read the [program information guide](#) and find out more about the grant process. The website includes a list of previous DERA awards.

Applications are being accepted through Sept. 16, 2019.

The total amount of available DERA funds in Iowa is \$797,625, which includes a base grant amount of \$319,050 and an Environmental Protection Agency incentive bonus of \$159,525. In addition, the state is matching that base grant amount with monies from Iowa's [Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund settlement](#).

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
EPA Base Allocation	\$319,050
Iowa's Voluntary Match from VW Settlement Funds	\$319,050
EPA Matching Incentive Bonus	\$159,525
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$797,625</b>

Contact: Zac Bitting at 515-239-1713 or [zachary.bitting@iowadot.us](mailto:zachary.bitting@iowadot.us)



Check out this PSA on our IPTA Website/Quick Links at: [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org)







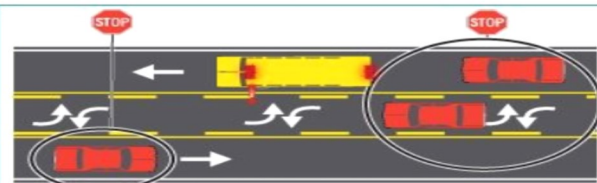
## STOPPED SCHOOL BUS PASSING LAWS IN IOWA

[www.iowadot.gov/schoolbus/requiredstopping.html](http://www.iowadot.gov/schoolbus/requiredstopping.html)

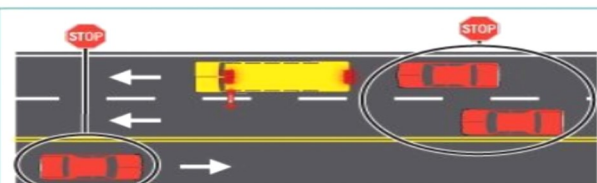
### 3 LANES OR FEWER: ALL VEHICLES MUST STOP



Two-lane highway

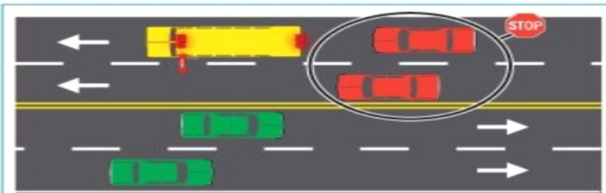


Two-lane highway with center turn lane

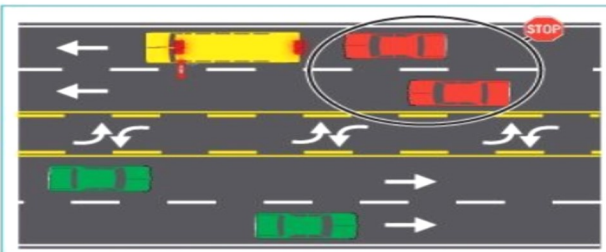


Three-lane highway

### 4 LANES OR MORE: VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM THE REAR MUST STOP



Four-lane highway



Four-lane highway with center turn lane



## BE SAFE. DRIVE SMART.

**Save a Life**  
Texas Department of Transportation



#### Give Trucks Space.

Trucks need more space to stop or turn. Whether you're in front, beside, or behind a truck, leave plenty of room.



#### Pass Carefully.

Only pass if it's legal and safe. Don't take unnecessary risks. On two-lane roads, never pass when the solid yellow line is on your side of the lane.



#### Drive Now. Text Later.

One in four crashes in Texas involves driver distraction. Give driving your full attention.



#### Drive to Conditions.

Unsafe speed is the leading cause of crashes on Texas highways. Adjust your speed to allow for heavy traffic, bad weather, and construction.



## Department of Education News and Reminders

**Max Christensen**, Executive Officer / State Director of School Transportation



Welcome back to school! By now, most of you have at least a week of the new year in, so hopefully you are getting all the kinks worked out and things are running well. I remember those days well, and I actually had a director ask me recently if I missed it? Long story short – no! But digging down a bit deeper, it's still a very exciting time to see all the hard work and route preparation pay off regarding getting all the students to school in a safe and efficient manner. And that is certainly what the iconic yellow school bus does better than any other form of transportation, is to transport the occupants safely. Our outstanding safety record is second to none and is a source of pride for our entire school transportation industry.

But that begs the question, can we do better? With a record like we have, how could we??? Well, let's flip the coin for a moment. Here in Iowa we transport approximately 240,000 students every day, twice a day. That's an amazing number, especially if you consider the largest city in the state, Des Moines, had a population during the last census of just under 218,000. Keep in mind, that is the city of Des Moines only and not the entire metro area. But still, we transport far more students every day, twice a day, than the number of people living in our largest city. That is amazing!! And we do it safely and efficiently!

And here in Iowa, the number of students we transport is about 50% of the total student population. This number is consistent with the percentages across the nation, as the 480,000 yellow school buses in the United States transport about 25 million students every day, or about 50% of the total student population. But as I mentioned, let's flip that coin. If you took a test and got 50%, you likely would not pass. If you went to a doctor with a 50% patient survival rate, would you continue to see that doctor? If you had a mechanic who was correctly repairing your car 50% of the time, would you keep going to him? If you had a bus driver who only showed up 50% of the time, would you keep that person on staff? Well, that last one, you might keep them around simply because of the bus driver shortage, but I think you get my drift. We do a great job, but could we do better?

That was a question the American School Bus Council (ASBC) posed to itself a few years ago. The ASBC is a coalition of the three major school transportation associations as well as the three major school bus manufacturers in the nation. The goal of the ASBC is to promote the yellow school bus and to get more kids riding the bus, thus getting more kids to school safely.

So, the ASBC did a nationwide survey of parents to determine why more kids don't ride the bus to school? Obviously, some kids simply are not eligible for transportation, such as in Iowa and most other states where transportation to school is not mandated unless the student lives a certain distance from their school. The ASBC knew this, so they focused their survey on eligible students and why their parents find a different way of getting the students to school (walking, biking, city bus, riding with someone else, etc.) rather than taking the yellow school bus to school.

Imagine the surprise of the ASBC as the responses came back, and the main reason parents weren't putting their kids on a yellow school bus is because the parents didn't feel the yellow school bus is safe! With the amazing safety record that school buses across the nation have, how could parents think the school bus is NOT safe?? One of the top reasons for this misperception? The lack of lap/shoulder belts (seatbelts) on school buses.

While we all know the yellow school bus is the safest form of transportation, and we've been telling this fact to parents and anyone else who will listen for years, the perception to many parents is, the yellow school bus is not safe because of a lack of seatbelts. No matter what the facts show, many times perception becomes reality, and in this case, the perception was that without seatbelts, the yellow school bus can't be safe. That transforms into the reality of many parents not putting their kids on the bus to get to school.

We're on the cusp of seeing lap/shoulder belts becoming required equipment on school buses here in Iowa. While the outcome of this decision is not yet known, parental concerns about school buses not having belts has been a driving factor. And while the job we've been doing in school transportation for many years is absolutely amazing, and I'm certainly not trying to take anything away from that record, is it enough? What about the other 50% of children, that other 240,000 students in Iowa, those other 25 million kiddos across the nation, what about how they get to school? Soon the parents in Iowa may no longer have the 'seat belt excuse' for not putting their children on our buses, so perhaps we can do better? Enjoy your school year!





## *Iowa Pupil Transportation Association*

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**Thank You to all of our Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsorship Partners**

**Thank you to all of our 2019-2020 IPTA Sustaining Members**

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 MHC Kenworth  
 Midwest Bus Parts  
 Midwest Peterbilt Group  
 Midwest Wheel Companies

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 Northland CDL Training  
 Northland Products Co.  
 O'Halloran International  
 O'Reilly Auto Parts  
 ProTeng, Fire-Protected  
 Q'Straint / Sure-Lok  
 REI (Radio Engineering Industries, Inc.)  
 REG (Renewable Energy Group)  
 Rosco Vision Systems  
 rSchoolToday  
 Sadler Power Train  
 SafeGuard/IMMI  
 Safety Arrow / Reflective Traffic Systems  
 School Bus Sales Co.  
 SoundOff  
 Thomas Bus Sales, Inc.  
 Transportant  
 Tyler Technologies  
 U.S. Cellular  
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Contact the IPTA at: Phone: (712) 830-3242 - E-mail: [2015ipta@gmail.com](mailto:2015ipta@gmail.com) - Website: [www.4ipta.org](http://www.4ipta.org)

IPTA Board Members: Julie Nemmers, President, Spencer, Carlos Guerra, Vice President, Norwalk, Randy Merrigan, Sioux City,  
 Chris Plendl, Sergeant, Bluff-Luton, Betty Golay, IA Christian Academy, Merrill Mueller, Jr., Algona, Woody Harden, Washington,  
 Kim Ensminger, Central Lee, Nathan Beal, Storm Lake, David Johnson, Van Meter, Cherokee, Bobbie Finley, Interstate 35,  
 Leo Reigelsberger, Humboldt, Max Christensen, DE Representative, Chris Darling, IPTA Executive Director