



NAPT STATEMENT ON

ESTABLISHING A "CLASS S LICENSE"

Background

There has been much discussion about the school bus driver shortage and the correlation between testing requirements and that driver shortage. NAPT believes that there is a larger issue here than simply specific aspects of the CDL curriculum and skills test.

Current Situation

NAPT believes that the overall CDL licensing process does not reflect the relatively unique nature of the work that school bus drivers perform. To wit, there are elements of the training and the testing that cover topics that will never apply to school bus drivers, and conversely, there are skills that school bus drivers must master that are not a part of the CDL process.

Our discussions brought us back to the long-standing question of having a 'school bus specific' license that is targeted to the skills and functions that an individual must acquire in order to safely transport our children.

Recommendation

To reflect the nature and the skills needs of school bus drivers, NAPT will pursue the legislative and regulatory steps necessary to establish a "CLASS S" CDL focused on school bus drivers.

Such a newly designated class would be one of two options for individuals seeking to become school bus drivers. The current CDL+P endorsement+S endorsement approach would continue, but a new Class S license would be available for those who specifically want to drive school buses and not other CMVs.

We see the benefits of such a license as follows:

- call attention to school bus driving as a career of note.
- allow candidates to drive a school bus without first having to gain a CDL and then a "P" endorsement.
- allow for a training and preparation process that targets the skills and abilities needed to drive a school bus successfully and safely with our nation's children aboard.

We believe our members will rally around such a concept and are eager to begin work on this important new approach with the support of our members and partners.