



# Ohio Association of Public School Employees

*American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

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**November 16, 2023**

Lois Carson  
*State President*

## **SURVEY OF OHIO SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS ON SAFETY ISSUES IN STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

Michael Lang  
*State Vice President*

Sandra Wheeler  
*State Secretary*

The following are the results of a survey of Ohio school bus driver members of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees. The Ohio Association of Public School Employees represents more than 30,000 school and other public service workers in Ohio, including 6,000 school bus drivers. OAPSE is an affiliate of the 1.3 million member American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees national union. The survey was conducted over a period of two months and questioned 232 school bus drivers. It **does not** include discussions held with groups of school bus drivers who did not participate in the survey but whose feedback reflects sentiments which are accurately represented by the survey results.

The questions tested the attitude of school bus drivers on two central questions related to the installation of seat belts on school buses: First, "Do you favor the use of seat belts for students on school buses?" Second, "Do you favor placing a school bus aide on school buses?" Drivers were also asked to respond to questions which combined the seat belt and bus aide queries.

The top line results are as follows:

1. 4.4% of drivers favored the use of seat belts with no other safety provisions.
2. 83% of drivers favored assigning an aide to school buses regardless of other safety provisions.
3. 49.6% of drivers favored the use of seat belts with the provision that an aide is assigned to the bus.

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These surveys comport with the consensus among the standing OAPSE Safety Committee members who have an extensive history of communication with the thousands of union members across the state who operate school buses. The survey validates the previously stated position (See the October 12, 2023, “Statement of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees to the Governor’s School Bus safety Task Force”.) that placing a second school employee on buses represents the single most impactful step that can be taken to enhance overall safety standards in the transportation of Ohio schoolchildren.

Respectfully submitted,

The OAPSE School Transportation Safety Committee  
Mike Lang, Chairman and OAPSE State Vice President  
Lois Caron, OAPSE State President  
Stephanie Wiley, OAPSE Executive Board Member  
Kathy Chamberlain, OAPSE Executive Board Member  
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