

transfinder



STARTS Task Force Update

Planning for School Reopening

Student **T**ransportation **A**ligned for the **R**eturn **T**o **S**chool

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Welcome



- Welcome by Transfinder President and CEO Antonio Civitella
- Introduction of Panelists by NAPT CEO Mike Martin
- Panel Discussion/Q&A





PROJECT OVERVIEW
JUNE 2020



The NAEP, NSTA and the NASDPTS have agreed that there was a need for clarity and alignment around the role of school transportation in the current COVID environment. The three organizations decided to form **a collaborative task force** to conduct focused research and develop a set of guidelines within a framework that would be meaningful for the member constituencies of the three organizations as well as the educational community at large.

Jim Regan of CAPITALWORKS was asked to develop a proposed approach and overall work plan for the task force. Tim Ammon of DECISION SUPPORT GROUP was added to the team to support the implementation and realization of the plan. Together they will act as the Program Management Team.

The structure of the task force is outlined on the page 5 and includes a Steering Committee, the Program Management Team and three Sub Committees supported by 75+ professionals from within the industry. The goal is to have the results by early July.



After participating in numerous webinars as presenters, panel participants and listeners, a number of common threads have appeared in the questions and comments and the approach is designed to address them.

First, there is a need to **develop a shortlist** of viable scheduling options for the reopening of schools.

These will range from a district being 100% remote learning based to starting school as normal if the district is in an area with few or no cases of the virus. If a district applies social distancing to the educational environment, then there is a host of split schedule or hybrid scheduling options that need to be captured by the task force.





Guidelines

Next, a **master set of guidelines regarding facilities, vehicles, driver and student safety, management practices (particularly routing and scheduling) and communication (including advocacy and Public Relations)** needs to be developed and then a determination needs to be made as to how each guideline applies (or does not apply) to each of the scheduling options

Finally, two more analyses need to be made. The first is to determine the viability of guidelines by district type: urban, suburban, mid-size city and towns and rural. The second is to assess their application in a 3/2/single tier transportation environments.

The goal is that every district will be able to find their situation (scheduling option, district type and tier) within a master matrix and have a set of supporting **guidelines**.



SCHEDULING OPTIONS	NORMAL OPENING	SPLIT SCHEDULE BY DAY	SPLIT SCHEDULE AM/PM	HYBRID SCHEDULE	100% REMOTE LEARNING
MASTER SET OF GUIDELINES	Applicable Guidelines	Applicable Guidelines	Applicable Guidelines	Applicable Guidelines	Applicable Guidelines
DISTRICT TYPE Urban, Suburban, Small City/Town, Rural	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset
DISTRICT TIER STRUCTURE 3 Tier, 2 Tier, Single	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset	Guidelines Subset

Add **Definitions** for clarification of terms
 Add **Glossary** to the deliverables
 Add SPED Review Layer

Executive Committee
Mike Martin -NAPT
Charlie Hood - NASDPTS
Curt Macysyn - NSTA

STEERING COMMITTEE NAPT, NSTA & NASDPTS
S.Simmons, J. Benish Jr. & M. LaRocco

Advisory Committee
John Barrington, Blue Bird
Trish Reed, Navistar/IC Bus
Jed Routh, Thomas Built Buses
Melissa McGrath, CCSO
Jane Mellow, NSBA

REQUIREMENTS

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM
CAPITALWORKS (J. Regan, G, Guastalli)
DECISION SUPPORT GROUP (T. Ammon)

DELIVERABLES

Health and Safety Committee
Greg Jackson NAPT
Robert Manspeaker NASDPTS
Bob Ramsdell NSTA

Communications Advocacy & PR Committee
M. Matt Sanchez - NAPT
Tina Spence, M.Ed - NASDPTS
Bree Allen - NSTA

Scheduling, Routing, & School Buses Committee
Peter Lawrence, Ed.D., CDPT - NAPT
Kayne M. Smith, Ed.D. - NAPT
Mike Stier - NASDPTS
Darryl C. Hill - NSTA

75 Industry Professional Volunteers to be allocated to each Committee

Requirements



The STARTS Project **requirements** include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Conduct relevant research and surveys on matters related to Covid-19 and student transportation
- Summarize research and develop recommendations
- Test recommendations with targeted constituencies
- Create a master list of best practices and recommendations
- Identify target organizations for participation
- Develop a resource guide and glossary with links and references

The requirements are for the project overall and for each of the three (3) sub-groups: **Health & Safety, Communication Advocacy & PR** and **Scheduling Routing & School Bus**



The following are the proposed deliverables for the STARTS Task Force overall and by committee:

Overall

- Data Landscape L1 Roadmap
- Decision Authority L1 Roadmap
- Shortlist of Scheduling Options
- Impact Analysis by District Type
- Impact Analysis by Route Structure
- SPED Considerations for Scheduling Options
- Target Organizations for Participation
- Resource Guide and References

Health and Safety Committee

- Data Landscape L2 Roadmap
- Decision Authority L2 Roadmap
- Best Practice Recommendations
- Impact Analysis by District Type
- Impact Analysis by Route Structure
- SPED Considerations for Best Practice Recommendations
- Target Organizations for Participation
- Resource Guide and References

Communications Advocacy & PR Committee

- Data Landscape L2 Roadmap
- Decision Authority L2 Roadmap
- Best Practice Recommendations
- Impact Analysis by District Type
- Impact Analysis by Route Structure
- SPED Considerations for Best Practice
- Recommendations\Target Organizations for Participation
- Resource Guide and References

Scheduling, Routing, and School Buses Committee

- Data Landscape L2 Roadmap
- Decision Authority L2 Roadmap
- Best Practice Recommendations
- Impact Analysis by District Type
- Impact Analysis by Route Structure
- SPED Considerations for Best Practice Recommendations
- Target Organizations for Participation
- Resource Guide and References



Below is more detail on the overall deliverables

- Data Landscape L1 Roadmap - The type of information available from federal, state, local and industry organizations and contractors
- Decision Authority L1 Roadmap - The type of authority each federal, state, local, contractor and industry organization has
- Shortlist of Scheduling Options - a description of each viable scheduling option a district is considering
- Master List of Guidelines and Requirements - a comprehensive list or menu of the practices to meet school transportation requirements
- Impact Analysis by District/Contract Type - a sublist of practices that are appropriate for urban, suburban, small town/city and rural districts
- Impact Analysis by Route Structure - a sublist of practices that are appropriate for systems with 3 tier, 2 tier or single tier systems
- SPED Considerations for Scheduling Options - a SPED edit/enhancement of the practices at all levels
- Target Organizations for Participation - a list of organizations and stakeholders who will be sent data collection surveys or whose approval is required on the final set of deliverables
- Resource Guide, Glossary and References - a project appendix of all sources of information

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1 Data Roadmap • L1 Decision Roadmap • Schedule Option Survey • Master List of Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Option Summary • District Type & Route Structure Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Analysis Summary by District Type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact Analysis Summary by Route Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPED Considerations for Scheduling Options • Final Report
Health and Safety Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 Data Roadmap • L2 Decision Roadmap • Best Practice Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices Summary • District Type & Route Structure Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by District Type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by Route Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPED Considerations for Best Practices • Final Report
Communications Advocacy & PR Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 Data Roadmap • L2 Decision Roadmap • Best Practice Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices Summary • District Type & Route Structure Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by District Type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by Route Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPED Considerations for Best Practices • Final Report
Scheduling, Routing, and School Buses Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 Data Roadmap • L2 Decision Roadmap • Best Practice Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practices Summary • District Type and Route Structure Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by District Type 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice Analysis Summary by Route Structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPED Considerations for Best Practices • Final Report



There will be a targeted research and data collection effort:

1. A **survey** of district superintendents to collect data on scheduling options
2. A **survey** of State Directors on the COVID impact on their Rules and Regulations and to identify the type of requests they are getting from the districts in their state
3. A **survey** of NSTA members to ascertain their readiness plans and practices

Once we have the master set of guidelines and practices, we will be testing them with a targeted group of urban, suburban, small city/town and rural districts with 3 tier, 2 tier and single tier systems via a survey instrument to identify the viability the guidelines and practices in each of these environments.

We will edit and enhance all guideline and practice lists with a SPED perspective.

Data Collection will be via GOOGLE FORMS and folders established in a GOOGLE DRIVE to enable access and support transparency in the work.

Discussion Panel



Mike Martin

Executive Director/CEO

National Association for
Pupil Transportation

Curt Macysyn

Executive Director

National School
Transportation Association

Rick D'Errico

Moderator

Transfinder Corp.



Charlie Hood

Executive Director

National Association of
State Directors of Pupil
Transportation Services

Tim Ammon

Co-owner

Decision Support Group

Jim Regan

Managing Partner

Capital Works
Consulting Group



Do you have a story?

mystory@transfinder.com



*See you next
week!*

Tune in **next Tuesday**, June 16, for our next
Best Practices webinar

Visit [Transfinder.com](https://www.transfinder.com) to register