



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Ayan Islam 202-741-5538

OSSE-DOT LAUNCHES AUTOMATED PROCESS TO STREAMLINE ROUTING AND SCHEDULING

Wireless GPS Units On Board Buses Allow Drivers to Track Student Ridership

(Washington, DC) – The Office of the State Superintendent of Education Division of Student Transportation (OSSE-DOT) is rolling out GPS units on its buses to allow drivers to view route information, including the name and address of a student assigned to a particular route. Drivers at OSSE-DOT's 5th Street terminal, which facilitates 123 routes daily, will begin learning how to use the new technology today.

The M-Nav unit by Navman Wireless enables drivers to key in a route number, which loads the device with a list of students scheduled for the route. After arriving at a student's house, drivers can record if a student boarded the bus or not. Drop-offs at schools are recorded in the same manner. The M-Nav unit is only used when the bus is not in motion to ensure proper focus on the road.

"This handheld device will track important student ridership data for us, with the ultimate goal being to phase out the use of paper trip tickets," said Ryan Solchenberger, director of the Division of Student Transportation. "Using the devices will also increase productivity and automate communications between drivers on the road and dispatch."

Using a messaging system included with the device, terminal dispatch staff can notify drivers of accidents and road closures by sending messages that will appear on the 4" screen. Another useful tool for drivers is the GPS navigation, which automatically displays a map of the route and delivers audio turn-by-turn directions.

Approximately 142 drivers will be trained on the new system. The handheld units will not activate unless they are docked in the cradle located inside the buses.

OSSE-DOT has been utilizing the vehicle tracking device to capture bus movements and record on-time performance data since early 2012.

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