



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** April 11, 2017

**In reply refer to:** H-17-13 (Urgent) and -14

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On March 29, 2017, the NTSB adopted its safety recommendation report concerning the driver qualification processes for BCPS and the disqualified driver database for all Maryland school districts.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about the issues and the resulting recommendations may be found in the safety recommendation report, which can be accessed at the [NTSB website](#), under report number NTSB/HSR-17/02.

As a result of this safety recommendation report, we issued one new safety recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education, and the following two recommendations (one urgent) to BCPS:

### H-17-13 (Urgent)

Request that the Maryland State Department of Education have an independent and neutral third party conduct a performance audit of your transportation department

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<sup>1</sup> *Shortcomings of Driver Qualification Processes for Baltimore City Public Schools and of the Disqualified Driver Database for All Maryland School Districts*, Highway Safety Recommendation Report NTSB/HSR-17/02 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2017).

that includes a review of crash reports and of disqualifying conditions for school bus drivers under *Code of Maryland Regulations* section 13A.06.07.07.

H-17-14

As soon as the performance audit referenced in Safety Recommendation H-17-13 is complete, take the corrective actions recommended to improve internal controls and ensure that all school bus drivers meet the qualification standards under *Code of Maryland Regulations* sections 13A.06.07.06–.07 and that they do not pose any safety risks.

Then-Acting Chairman DINH-ZARR and Members HART, SUMWALT, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement urgent Safety Recommendation H-17-13 within 30 days and those to implement Safety Recommendation H-17-14 within 90 days. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Robert L. Sumwalt, III  
Acting Chairman