

STD BRIEFS

In New Jersey, the Union County, Monmouth-Ocean, Middlesex County and Camden County Educational Services Commissions have received a grant under the New Jersey Regional Efficiency Development Incentive Program to evaluate the status of school bus driver availability throughout the state.

Transportation Advisory Services (TAS), a student transportation consulting firm, has been engaged to perform this study under the auspices of the state grant.

The first part of the study involves a detailed survey of operators and drivers to gain an accurate understanding of the true state of bus driver employment in the state.

These surveys have been designed for program operators (public and private schools), contractors and drivers (English and Spanish versions) and for ease of response, with all surveys returned to TAS in postage-paid formats.

In addition, members of the TAS study team are interviewing representatives of the state, unions, associations and other interested parties.

Once the initial data collection is completed, the information will be used to develop programs

and procedures that all parties can use to improve the hiring and retention of qualified school bus drivers.

The goal: to create cost-efficient programs that can be implemented through shared services and individual initiatives.

The final results of the study will be published in 2001, and will be available throughout the state, according to TAS officials.

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