DATE: May 1, 2007

TO: All Principals

FROM: Jimmy Nazary
Transportation Coordinator

RE: Transportation to and from athletic events by parents

I am sure you are aware that the safest way to transport students is by use of school buses. By the rules of the Alabama State Board of Education, any vehicle that the school system uses to transport students, must be inspected by the State Department of Education and these vehicles must be driven by holders of an Alabama School Bus Driver Certificate.

In a letter from the State Superintendent of Education, Ed Morton, to Dr. Hollinger, Baldwin County Public Schools Superintendent, Mr. Morton states that “school buses must be the primary method to transport students”.

Are there ever situations when the school system can use vehicles other than school buses? The answer is no, but the school can choose not to furnish transportation to an event. If the school does not furnish transportation to an event, the school may allow parents to transport students to the event. The school still must approve the transportation process. To reduce liability, permission slips must be signed, copies of the driver’s license of the parent driving to the event and copies of proof of insurance for the vehicle being used to the event all must be kept on file at the school office. Repeating, for a parent to transport their child or another child (not their child), prior approval from the parent and principal is required. (I am referencing item #7 from the page on field trips from the principal’s handbook)

Never allow a student to transport other students to any event.

Repeating, school buses are the safest way of transporting students to and from field trips and athletic events. If the system is providing transportation to any event it must be on a school bus.