



Defensible Decisions about Transporting Students with Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Legal Disputes

A LOOK BACK AND THE ROAD AHEAD

- ***Understand the legal framework***
- ***Plan for best results***
- ***Implement successful practices***
- ***Discover effective training tools***

How today's cases
can inform your
decisions tomorrow



Peggy A. Burns, Esq. and Lisa J. Hudson



***Defensible Decisions about Transporting Students with Special Needs:
Lessons Learned from Legal Disputes***

Dear Colleague:

I am excited to tell you about my new book, **Defensible Decisions about Transporting Students with Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Legal Disputes**, written with Lisa J. Hudson. Lisa is known to many of you from her articles and special reports, and as former editor (2006-09) of the newsletters *School Transportation Director* and *Transporting Students with Disabilities and Special Needs*.

We think of **Defensible Decisions about Transporting Students with Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Legal Disputes** as helping readers take “a Look Back” at the important cases which will define “the Road Ahead” for transporting students with disabilities. Access to their educational programs is critical for many of your special students. Individualized decision-making about when transportation is necessary, and how to provide it effectively and appropriately is your responsibility. It is our goal to support you in avoiding the distractions that can come from your own legal disputes by furthering your understanding of the ways safety, compliance and customer service can be reconciled in planning and implementing special needs transportation.

We believe that you will find the book practical and valuable whether you are a school district transportation professional, a bus contractor, a special educator, or a school or district administrator. The **Table of Contents** and **Topic Sections** included in this packet illustrate the approaches we’ve taken to present you with the information you need:

- Tips, strategies, and methods to put “**In practice.**”
- **Overviews** of each topic to provide a snapshot of the issues, a basic understanding of the legal framework, and a fast look at the importance of the topic.
- **Case Summaries** and **Rulings** to give you quick insights into the cases and choose key issues for focus and further detail.
- **Case details** to serve as comparisons to your own dilemmas, to help you discover creative strategies for achieving compliance, and to tell you the stories on which you can base scenarios for training and in-services.

From “**Appropriate Method,**” to “**Discipline and Behavior,**” to “**Length of Ride,**” to “**Student Information**” and “**Transition Services**” – and each topic in between – these are the subjects that reach court dockets and state and federal agency agendas. Now you’ll learn about successful strategies from a resource you can trust.

In addition, you’ll find a **Glossary, Table of Cases, Index,** and a newly revised edition of my useful Q & A document, **Where Does It Say That?**

For only \$75.00 plus \$9.95 for shipping and handling fees, **Defensible Decisions about Transporting Students with Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Legal Disputes,** gives you a guide to where we’ve been and where we must go to transport students with disabilities safely, and ready to learn. You can buy additional copies at the same price, and have them shipped at the same time and to the same address, for an additional \$5.00 per extra copy. There is an order form at the end of this packet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Le. Burns". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peggy Burns

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About the Authors

Peggy A. Burns, Esq. was in-house legal counsel for Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Colorado for twenty years. She now consults full-time as the founder and president of Education Compliance Group Inc. A former high school English and forensics teacher, Peggy is a licensed attorney and has devoted the past 21 years specifically to legal issues affecting public education. She is a frequent presenter at state, regional, and national conferences, and serves as a Tenured Faculty Member for the National Conference and Exhibition on Transporting Students with Disabilities. She is editor of *Legal Routes*, and a frequent contributor to other industry publications.

Peggy is also the author of four video training programs for school bus drivers, and the developer of live and video training programs for administrators in schools, districts and school bus companies. She is co-author of *School Bus Stops: a Safety Guide for Transporters*, and has developed Risk Management tools for Utica National Insurance Company. She lives in Lafayette, Colorado with her husband Mike, and has two married sons.

Lisa J. Hudson is a freelance features writer, copy writer and editor, and has been covering the school transportation industry since 2004. Her articles and special reports have appeared in *School Transportation News* and through the National Association for Pupil Transportation. Lisa is the former editor (2006-09) of the newsletters *School Transportation Director* and *Transporting Students with Disabilities and Special Needs*. After graduating from Rutgers University with a degree in Journalism, her publishing career went on to include editorial positions with New York City-based trade paperback book publishers and advertising agencies. She lives in Verona, New Jersey with her husband and two children.



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