



March 31, 2020

Re: **Guidance from the US Dept. of Education for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act), Section 18006, regarding Education Stabilization Funds Conditioned on Continued Payments to School Bus Contractors**

Dear Dr. McCoy,

I am writing today to first thank you and acknowledge and express how much we appreciate your commitment to your community members by paying for their wages during this extraordinary time. Our drivers, mechanics, staff and monitors have been dedicated to this community with a fierce commitment to their jobs and the safe transport of our students. We appreciate your efforts and payment agreement up to April 3, 2020. We look forward to continue the partnership with your team through this difficult time, and are confident that the Cares Act will allow us to receive the proper funding going forward from April 4, 2020 through the remaining Covid-19 Closure days.

We are very pleased to share the recent news that Congress has acted to protect student transportation employees and contractors and has provided some clarity on contractor payments during the shutdown. On March 28, 2020, President Trump enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) that includes a \$30.75 billion "Education Stabilization Fund" with \$13.5 billion specifically allocated for elementary and secondary education schools, flowing through states. Section 18006 of the new law states that as a condition of receiving funding:

"A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under "Education Stabilization Fund", shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus."

The clear and overriding intent from Congress in Section 18006 of the CARES Act is to ensure that both employees, who work for school districts, and contractors, that provide services to school districts, continue to get paid during the school closures. This language and directive apply to the entire time schools are shut down because of the virus. The federal government is doing everything it can to ensure that life will resume back to normal after the virus is no longer a threat and that the nation's business and their employees will not suffer irrevocable harm.

We will need to continue work together to make sure our employees are taken care of and to ensure we will all be ready to resume learning in the classroom when the time comes. The language in 18006 is clear and as a condition of receiving money under this Act, school districts must continue to pay its employees and its contractors. Therefore, we will continue our billing accordingly from the new arrangement date through the remaining calendar school closures.

In partnership,
Donis L. Nichols
General Manager

