Date: February 19, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: Human Resource Personnel

From: Ambrose F. Duckett III, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Field Support and Services

OFAC Criminal History and School Bus Safety Training Program

The New Jersey Department of Education is introducing a comprehensive two-part training program, combining efforts from the Office of Student Protection and the Office of School Bus Safety. This initiative is designed to foster a deeper understanding of and interconnection between the critical areas of criminal history record checks and school bus safety regulations. By exploring these interconnected domains, the training aims to empower district and county personnel, enhancing their ability to offer more effective guidance to their respective stakeholders.

Participants will gain insights into the intricacies of conducting and submitting fingerprinting through Identogo's LiveScan technology, which is crucial for obtaining timely criminal history record check results. Furthermore, the program will delve into essential aspects of school bus safety, including credentialing, incident reporting, as well as compliance and enforcement strategies. This holistic approach ensures that officials are well-equipped to uphold safety and security standards, ultimately benefiting the entire educational community. Below is an outline of the topics that will be covered in this enriching training:

Part 1: Office of Student Protection

- Evolution and development of the Criminal History Record Check process
- Overview of legal requirements for school staff background checks
- Disqualification criteria linked to criminal records
- Comparison of Criminal History Record Check types
- Step-by-step guide to the Identogo application process
- Follow-up procedures for newly arrested, previously approved employees

Part 2: Office of School Bus Safety

- Office of School Bus Safety training
- Details on suspensions, demotions, and fines for violating bus entities.
- Enforcement strategy and process relative to disqualification and prohibition
- Recommended strategies for school districts, transportation coordinators, county superintendents, contractors, and bus drivers.

Attendance at this training is complimentary; however, pre-registration is mandatory. We offer multiple regional training sessions to ensure optimal accessibility for participants unable to attend within their designated region.

Register Online: Mercer-Middlesex-Monmouth

Register by: March 21, 2025

Date: Friday, March 28, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Agricultural Building

4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Register Online: Bergen-Union-Essex-Hudson

Register by: March 27, 2025

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Union College of Union County NJ

1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Register Online: Burlington-Ocean
Register by: April 1, 2025

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 **Time**: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Burlington County Office of Education (Human Services Building)

795 Woodlane Road, Westampton, NJ 08060

Register Online: <u>Somerset-Warren-Hunterdon</u>

Register by: April 10, 2025

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Hunterdon County Office of Education Conference Room

314 State Route 12, Flemington, NJ 08822

Register Online: Camden-Gloucester-Salem

Register by: April 17, 2025

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Camden County Regional Emergency Training Center

420 Woodbury-Turnersville Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Register Online: <u>Sussex-Morris-Passaic</u>

Register by: April 22, 2025

Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Morris County Public Safety Training Academy

500 West Hanover Avenue, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Register Online: Atlantic-Cape May-Cumberland

Register by: May 8, 2025

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025

Time: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Address: Stockton University, Alton Auditorium

101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205

For any questions regarding the Criminal History Record Check Training Program, please contact Marisol Medina at Marisol.medina@doe.nj.gov or (609) 376-3643.

c: Members, State Board of Education

NJDOE Staff

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools

NJ LEE Group