

**From:** Donald Brown [mailto:storyteller48@bellsouth.net]

**Sent:** Saturday, November 17, 2012 11:56 AM

**To:** Sally Cauthen

**Subject:** RE: School Transportation Decentralization Study Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 15, 201

I would like to present the fact that we are operating buses in this state that the federal guidelines would put out of service. The people in charge of transportation have no idea of how to buy equipment. There is a need to standardize the buses: same manufacturer, same body style, same motor, transmission, tire size and wheel type, that holds down costs by giving buying power and the need for a smaller inventory of parts. Also, when ordering buses, tell the manufactures what you want not what they can give you. Tell them that you are going to standardize your fleet. If you look at the major trucking operations, they do it that way. Even Duke and ATT order that way. If you need special equipment, look at types that can be removed and transferred to new equipment, like self-contained heating and air conditioning . These types of units save money in the long run because they can operate with the bus turned off, plus it adds a margin of safety for our special needs students. The units are diesel-powered and can run off of the same fuel the bus does and can be adapted to be moved to other equipment.

*(Mr. Brown is a former school bus driver and truck driver who has been a state inspector)*