



## **Charley Kennington**

Lampasas, Texas  
School Transportation – Retired



Charley Kennington was in school transportation for 31 years, covering all aspects from management to school bus driver training. He began his career as a transportation director - serving as the director for Gonzales ISD and then Waco ISD for a total of 13 years.

In 1999, Charley was hired by the Texas Department of Public Safety as the Texas State Director for School Bus Transportation. At the 2000 National Association for State Directors for Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) conference, Ms. Diane Wigle, from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), gave a brief presentation about a new program for pupil transportation. She asked the State Directors to provide locations to conduct pilot tests for the new program: child safety restraint training on school buses. Charley volunteered the state of Texas to conduct the first pilot test, and the class was held in February 2001 in Austin, TX. Charley attended this pilot course, saw the benefits of this training and became a Child Passenger Safety Technician in May 2001 (he maintains a current certification).

In March of 2002, the National Transporting Students with Disabilities Conference hosted the first National Child Passenger Safety Restraint for School Bus training in Fort Worth, TX. Charley provided school bus seats for the training and was a member of the inaugural instructor team. As the Texas State Director, he worked with many Texas school districts and encouraged them to certify, and then train, instructors to teach the Child Passenger Safety course in their district.

Charley was hired in 2007 by the Texas Region 4 Education Service Center as the Director for School Transportation. Region 4 serves 49 Independent School Districts and 50 Charter Schools in the greater Houston/Southeast Texas area. Charley's department trained more than 6,000 school bus drivers each year and conducted trainings for transportation management. Some of the trainings included: Transportation Administrator Workshops, Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs, Train the Trainer workshops and others. Charley has become known as an expert in child passenger safety for pupil transportation and has taught the course many times at the Transporting Students with Disabilities Conference, School Transportation News Expo, the National Association for Pupil Transportation Conference and many state and regional school transportation conferences.

In 2008, Charley was asked to serve on the committee when NHTSA was ready to update the Child Passenger Safety Training for School Bus curriculum. NHTSA funded a second update in 2015, and Charley was selected as the chair of the curriculum rewrite committee.

Charley has served as a Board Member for the following organizations:

- National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services  
Served as Regional Director Southeastern States for two years 2002 - 2003  
Elected as President Elect 2007
- Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference  
Served on Executive Board 2001 - 2006  
Served as President 2005 - 2006
- Transporting Students with Disabilities Conference  
Served on Advisory Board 2001 - 2003  
Served on Advisory Board 2005 - 2016
- Pupil Transportation Safety Institute  
Board of Directors 2005 - 2009
- Texas Operation Lifesaver  
Board of Directors 2005 - 2009
- National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services – Supplier Council  
Board of Directors 2009 - 2016

Charley received the following awards during his career: SURE-LOK Special Needs Transportation Award 2007, Texas Association for Pupil Transportation Honoree 2008 - 2009 and the School Transportation News Leadership Award in 2012.

