

Cheryl Wolf

Lafayette, Indiana Special Needs Transportation Consultant

Cheryl Wolf has been in pupil transportation for over 30 years with special needs transportation always being the focus of her work. Cheryl began her career as a favor to a friend to fill in as a driver of a green cargo van which served as the special needs bus for the school district, thus making her one of the first special needs drivers for the state of Indiana and the nation. In 2011 she retired as Transportation Supervisor with the Lafayette School Corporation in Lafayette, Indiana.

While growing in her focus on special needs transportation, Cheryl became a leader in this area. She became one of the first drivers to also transport students with service animals.



Cheryl worked with Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN to develop a school bus safety program to transport students with disabilities. The Mobile Teaching School Bus of Riley Hospital for Children Automotive Safety Program was specially equipped with on-board safety technology and restraint devices for preschoolers and children with special needs. The training bus was driven by Cheryl to sites across the mid-west to demonstrate the need for child safety restraint systems on school buses for students with disabilities and the preschool population. Cheryl was certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician in 2000 and an Instructor in 2002. This was instrumental in bringing child passenger safety restraint system use on school buses to the state of Indiana as well as across the United States. In 2000 she was on the writing committee for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration "Child Passenger Safety Training for School Buses" curriculum as well as the 2008 revision. She participated in the NHTSA video workgroup to produce a companion piece to the curriculum. Cheryl has been part of the teaching team for the curriculum since its inception.

Cheryl was one of the original faculty for the EduPro Group that produced the National Conference and Exhibition on Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers. In addition to being a Tenured Faculty Member, she has also served on their Board of Advisors. Cheryl also served as Region 3 Director for the National Association of Pupil Transportation 2006-2009 and an NAPT Associate Staff Instructor

She was Chair of the writing committee for "Transportation for Students with Disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs" for the 2010 & 2015 National Congress on School Transportation revising the National Transportation School Transportation Specifications & Procedures. She has presented at numerous local, state, regional and national conferences as well as Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Conference.



Cheryl was also a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for School Bus Fleet Magazine. She has written and edited articles for both School Bus Fleet and School Transportation News magazines. Cheryl's most notable accomplishment as an author though has been as a co-writer of a book titled "White Knuckle Rides". This book is a collection of most memorable stories of special needs school transportation that have been passed on through the industry over the years.

As a final accomplishment to solidify all the work she has done over the years in Special Need School Transportation, Cheryl was able to play a major role in the writing of the Indiana regulation that made Indiana, the first state in the nation to require that any pre-k child being transported on a school bus must be secured in an FMVSS 213 compliant child restraint, effective January 1, 2018

- She was the recipient of the NAPT Sure-Lok Special Needs Transportation Award 2007
- School Transportation Association of Indiana Distinguished Service Award 2008
- School Transportation Association of Indiana Richard Pea Award 2009
- Peter Grandolfo Memorial Award of Excellence for Excellence in Student Transportation 2011

