

### District Statement about recent bus accident

North Caldwell prioritizes bus safety for our students. The district contracts Sussex Co-op to manage our busing needs. The vehicles that are used in-district for subscription busing are owned by Belair Transport.

The following measures are implemented to ensure student safety.

- Every year prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, all contractors must submit their current driver roster to the County office. This roster includes all current criminal history reports, motor vehicle driver abstracts and special needs training certificates.
- All school bus drivers must possess a CDL license with a passenger and a special school bus driver endorsement. In order to keep the passenger and school bus driver endorsements, and work in a school system, the driver has to be fingerprinted and undergo a criminal background check upon initial employment and every four years thereafter.
- School bus drivers are also required to comply with a federally mandated random drug-testing program. This drug testing program screens for illegal drug and alcohol use. All positive results are logged in a national database called the Clearinghouse. This enables us to have access to all results nationwide.
- All drivers also have their motor vehicle abstract checked by the Department of Education at least once per year to make sure that any license suspensions or serious motor vehicle violations have not gone unreported.

North Caldwell has a great relationship with Sussex Co-Op and Belair Transport which provide the majority of the Transportation for our students. If at any time, you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to reach out to Sussex Co-Op at [wegroup@sussexcoop.org](mailto:wegroup@sussexcoop.org) or Michael Halik in the Board of Education Business Office at [mhalik@ncboe.org](mailto:mhalik@ncboe.org)