



# Florida Association for Pupil Transportation

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**December 4, 2006**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shirley Higgins was named today as the new Executive Director of the Florida Association for Pupil Transportation (FAPT). Shirley started as a school bus operator for the Highlands County, Florida, School Board in 1974, and served the district as route coordinator, driver trainer, CDL trainer/tester, and operations manager. She has a special interest in safe transportation of students with disabilities and developed specialized training and curriculum materials for operators and attendants serving students with special needs. She also developed school bus hostage training and a disaster evacuation plan for the Highlands County Emergency Operations Center. She retired from Highlands County in 2005.

Shirley has been an active member of FAPT since 1985. She served the association as Chair of the School Bus Driver Safety Skills Competition Committee, and coordinated the National School Bus Safety Week poster contest. Said Karen Strickland, the association's President, "FAPT is elated to welcome Shirley as the Executive Director. She has entered into this position running the marathon and is bringing her enthusiasm and excellent customer service skills. We all look forward to working with Shirley."

Please join the FAPT Board of Directors in welcoming Shirley Higgins to her new position serving the members of the association.

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