























## Tip Sheet for Bus Drivers of Students with Challenging Behaviors

-  **Safety First**-know and comply with operational and driving regulations.
-  Be respectful of students as individuals - use their names.
-  Ask about what is expected of students and set your expectations accordingly.
-  Act instead of reacting to an inappropriate situation.
-  Be friendly and positive in communications.
-  Be very consistent and fair.
-  Be patient and allow time for students to adjust. Behaviors take time to change.
-  Demonstrate appropriate behavior- the behavior you wish from students.
-  Dress appropriately- e.g. avoid clothing with advertising for alcohol or may be provocative.
-  Do follow the behavior management plan that has been developed for the school.
-  Do follow through with promises, consequences and rewards.
-  Do not yell at students. Use the radio or whistle to get their attention and speak clearly about your expectations.
-  Do not make statements lightly - students remember.
-  Do not take negative comments personally.
-  Do not hold a grudge. Remember that the students are here because they have a disability.
-  Do not criticize or embarrass students in front of others.
-  Do not threaten students.
-  Know when you need help and talk with your supervisor and school staff for ideas about how to handle problems before they become major problems.
-  Record behavioral incidents accurately and report them promptly.
-  Know your support system in emergency situations-supervisors, principal, police.
-  Maintain a sense of humor.
-  Find a way to reward yourself at the end of each day and relax.