

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Transportation Safety Board recommends that:

1. All States enact requirements for school districts or administrations within their jurisdiction, through State funding assistance or any other appropriate authority, for the installation of suitable restraint systems (seatbelts or other approved devices) at the driver's position in all schoolbuses, and for the wearing of such restraints (or the use of such devices) at all times when persons are being transported in such schoolbuses.
2. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission, in consideration of the unnecessary hazards posed by locating schoolbus fuel tanks adjacent to service doors, act promptly to determine the "best" and "safest" location for schoolbus fuel tanks and to specify such location, as well as any protective shield or structural changes, to minimize the likelihood that a collision which might disable the service door or the emergency exit will also initiate a schoolbus fuel tank fire, and vice versa.
3. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Vehicle Equipment Safety Commission, in consideration of hazards posed by schoolbus service doors which open in such fashion that the pressure of persons from within the bus might hamper or prevent the expeditious opening of such doors in an emergency, act promptly to determine the safest mode of service-door opening and to specify such mode of opening in appropriate standards.

BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD:

/s/ JOHN H. REED
Chairman

/s/ OSCAR M. LAUREL
Member

/s/ FRANCIS H. McADAMS
Member

/s/ LOUIS M. THAYER
Member

/s/ ISABEL A. BURGESS
Member

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