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From: **Gary Niels** <[gniels@paispa.org](mailto:gniels@paispa.org)>  
Date: Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 3:14 PM  
Subject: Transporting Private School Students  
To: <[smallschoolheads@paispa.org](mailto:smallschoolheads@paispa.org)>, <[largeschoolheads@paispa.org](mailto:largeschoolheads@paispa.org)>

Dear PAIS Heads,

As you know, we have been fighting on behalf of the PAIS schools to require public schools to transport private schools students regardless of whether the local public schools are conducting in-person or remote classes. The current law has enough of an interpretation loophole for public schools to slip out of that requirement. However, the Senate Education Committee submitted a bill, SB 1216, that would require the transportation of private school students even if the public school is conducting remote learning. Since its introduction we have been tracking it as it has been bouncing back and forth between various committees. With the increase of COVID cases, my concern is that more and more public schools will be moving to remote learning, if they have not already done so. This will mean that fewer and fewer of our students will be able to be transported by public school bus transportation. Consequently, we are sending the e-mail below to each member of the Senate Education Committee. If this would impact your school, I would ask that you cut and paste my e-mail below to any or all members of the Education Committee ASAP.

Thanks for your support on this!

Gary

*Dear Senator,*

*Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools is requesting your support for final passage of SB 1216. SB 1216 is currently sitting in the Rules Committee and is vital to nonpublic students continuing in-person instruction. As you know SB 1216 would mandate districts to provide transportation to nonpublic students regardless if the district is providing in-person or remote learning.*

*With the current COVID increases and PDE recommending that districts that are located within counties that fall under the COVID "substantial category" (16 to date and raising) offer only remote instruction to public school students. We find more and more districts statewide are refusing to transport nonpublic students to school. We need your help to continue to offer in-person instruction to nonpublic school students.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Gary J. Niels*

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