

Several instances of non-compliance with legislation and policy

Many buses have overdue inspections and lack required maintenance

No targets or objectives have been set for recruitment and retention of bus drivers

Department lacks oversight mechanisms

Overall Conclusions

Our audit work concluded that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the department) does not have effective systems and processes to ensure school district compliance with legislation and departmental policies relating to pupil transportation. Additionally, adequate strategies are not in place to ensure sufficient staffing levels of bus drivers.

Of utmost concern to us, is that despite our office's extensive audit of pupil transportation in 2001, several gaps in levels of compliance still remain. We see little improvement in the area of departmental monitoring and oversight.

While the department has begun to develop a school bus driver recruitment and retention strategy, no targets or objectives have been set.