

Frequently Asked Questions from 2016 PDS Sessions

Question: How can drivers overcome language barriers on the bus?

Answer: You can identify bi-lingual drivers, attendants, and monitors to help with difficult routes. You can use more body language and hand gestures.

Question: How can we as SBDIs, overcome our personal assumptions on diversity?

Answer: We can work to understand different cultures and ethnic backgrounds. We can have open dialog with our peers to share our diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Question: How do we teach staff to become sensitive to diversity issues and situations?

Answer: Stress to them the importance of becoming the positive change that they seek in others. Have quick meetings with information on various diversity topics.

Question: What can an SBDI do if he/she fails to relate to this topic of diversity?

Answer: Research the subject and talk with someone who has more experience in this area.

Question: Why does it seem, young drivers are more receptive to change and diversity?

Answer: They have not been exposed to the major prejudices that older veteran drivers have. They have experienced the new cultural diversity that is more prevalent in today's society.

Question: How can a manager prevent a driver from being stubborn when it comes to accepting all students?

Answer: Talk to them individually; require retraining; role modeling; and express to them the consequences of them not embracing diversity on the bus.

Question: How can SBDI's ensure they don't create hostile environments or offend anyone when doing group activities?

Answer: SBDI's should know their audience, and structure each activity so that learning is taking place and not so much personal issues being displayed. Stick to the script as much as possible and consult HR for more insight.

Question: How can SBDI's avoid letting their personal beliefs interfere with presenting the material on diversity?

Answer: SBDI's can research areas where they lack understanding, they can also talk with drivers and management that have more experience in specific aspects of the topic.

Question: How can an SBDI prepare for the negativity that might arise while teaching about diversity?

Answer: SBDI's should seek to understand the benefits of this subject, and how it can positively impact the drivers, students and operation; then convey it to the attendees. (WIIFM)

Question: How can SBDIs change drivers, attendants, and monitors negative attitudes towards diversity?

Answer: SBDIs can change attitudes by making it personal to the attendees and by encouraging them to have dialog with people from different cultures and backgrounds. Becoming a role model will further the cause.

Question: How can an instructor demonstrate diversity to a large group?

Answer: An instructor can break up the room by shirt colors, then slowly isolate a color from a treat or privilege; and then get feedback from that group as to how they felt. Identify at least 2 attendees that can speak a foreign language. Instruct them to have a conversation, then get feedback from attendees that didn't understand what was being said.

Question: What is Ableism?

Answer: Ableism is the discrimination of individuals with physical disabilities or deformities, resulting in discrimination or social prejudice against people with disabilities.

Question: Where do we find information on Ableism?

Answer: You can find information about Ableism on the internet; using Google and YouTube, etc.

Question: How can instructors bring the point across of living in someone else's shoes?

Answer: Bring in a guest speaker to talk about their different experiences and share with the class some of the misconceptions that might have existed. Create role playing activities demonstrating various behaviors and solicit feedback from the class on their reactions. Have class activities to demonstrate various disabilities using aides, (marsh mellow, ear plugs, mittens, etc.)

Question: How do we get drivers to recognize bad behavior that may be caused by a disability?

Answer: Seek information that can be placed in drivers areas to educate them about these sensitive topics.

Question: How can managers get drivers to be more sensitive towards special needs students?

Answer: Add more training to the curriculum in this areas.

Question: Where can drivers find information on transporting students with disabilities?

Answer: You can find information on the internet; through popular search engines and the State education dept.

Question: How can instructors make the emotional connection for drivers about sensitivity to Ableism?

Answer: Instructors can share personal experiences, bring in guest speakers and parents, and talk about; "What if it happened to a family member."

Question: How can instructors generate interest in the topics being presented?

Answer: Instructors must first seek to understand each topics, and how it will impact their operation. Once the instructor understands the importance of each topic and how it impacts each driver and student's safety; convey that message.

Question: How can instructors avoid making information about PJ's Law repetitive?

Answer: Instructors can research different aspects of this law to bring in-depth understanding of this important topic. SBDI's can research the subject on the internet, or bring in a guest speaker (parents of special needs student or teacher). YouTube is a great source for videos on the subject.

Question: Where can drivers get more information on the student's specific disability?

Answer: Drivers can get information from the student's teacher and parents to assist in transporting them safely.

Question: How would moving from the classroom to a hands on setting; in a bus or shop be beneficial?

Answer: It could help bring things into perspective by creating real and visual situations and enhance participation.

Question: How can SBDIs and managers make drivers more aware of the real possibility of dragging students?

Answer: Share all available resources; including, School Bus Safety Is One Bus Stop at A Time (SBSIOBSAAT), Check the door once more, Videos and testimonies. Remind them during safety meetings, re-training, and daily safety messages.

Question: How can instructors get up to date information on dragging?

Answer: Instructors can search on Google.com, read school bus transportation reports, and visit SBDI's Facebook page.

Question: How can drivers be sure their riders understand the bus safety rules?

Answer: Drivers can review safety rules daily to make sure students understand and their actions can be an indication.

Question: How can we implement the "Check the door once more" campaign?

Answer: By posting the campaign flyers around the facility and incorporating it into your training and daily safety messages.

Question: How can instructors effectively communicate with diverse groups?

Answer: Connect on the things that everyone has in common and build from that. Bring in guest speakers and use audio/visual aides to convey messages.

Question: How can instructors be more engaging when presenting training topics?

Answer: Instructors can break class into smaller groups for discussion, use props, use local drivers for videos, and use positive body language, voice modulation and eye contact. Instructors can also draw from the experience of veteran drivers. And WIIFM (What's in it for me)

Question: How can SBDI's help drivers retain training information?

Answer: SBDI's can keep the training simple, yet creative and make sure drivers have a clear understanding. Information bulletins and safety messages will reinforce training topics.

Question: How do you make an old topic new again?

Answer: Safety is always current. There might me new drivers in the class. Use resent events on the subject. To stir things up you can have a quest speaker or utilize experienced drivers in group discussions.

Question: How can instructors teach Empathy?

Answer: Instructors can create activities involving role playing where drivers are on the receiving end of indifferences.

Question: How can instructors download videos onto zip drives that are good for training purposes?

Answer: Instructors can download videos from Youtube.com using “Realplayer Downloader”, a free app that downloads internet videos to your computer or other specified location.

Question: How can instructors make the emotional connection for drivers about training topics?

Answer: “People don’t care how much you know’ until they know how much you care.” Instructors can share personal experiences, local news stories and talk about; “What if it happened to a family member.”

Question: How can Instructors incorporate group challenges effectively?

Answer: Instructors should keep in mind, each challenge should reinforce the learning that has taken place. Instructors can get ideas from other SBDI’s to add variety.
