

School Bus And Transit Workers Campaign Goals Resolution

2008 Teamsters School Bus Workers Congress Jacksonville, Florida

Whereas, In the past year First Student has become the largest private provider of school bus transportation in North America since its takeover of Laidlaw, and is now the third largest Teamster employer with over 15,000 Teamster represented workers;

Whereas, The Teamsters is the largest union at First Student and the largest union in the school bus industry;

Whereas, Tens of thousands of First Student and First Transit workers continue to be unrepresented and often face abusive working conditions, including unaffordable health insurance, no paid sick days or other paid days off, low pay, disrespectful treatment, safety issues and more;

Whereas, While in the past two years the Teamsters have organized over 5,600 school bus and transit workers in over 40 yards, in order to represent the majority of First Student and First Transit workers our union must organize another 30,000;

Whereas, In many yards the Teamsters have been able to bargain important job improvements for members including wage increases, paid holidays, safety bonuses, company health care and retirement contributions, and the Teamsters now hold over 120 contracts with First Student and First Transit;

Now, therefore, on this 27th day of March, 2008, be it unanimously resolved by those present at the Teamsters School Bus and Transit Campaign Workers Congress that the Campaign 2008 goals are as follows:

- The Teamsters and Transport & General Workers Union section of Unite the Union "Drive Up Standards" campaign shall continue until there is a mutual agreement between the unions and FirstGroup.
- The Teamsters shall continue to work closely with our sisters and brothers in the Transport and General Workers Union section of Unite the Union in order to build an international workers movement and to drive up standards in the school bus and transit industry.

- Working with the Transport and General Workers Union, the Teamsters will continue to reach out to United Kingdom politicians and other allies to hold FirstGroup accountable.
- The Teamsters will commit to the goal of organizing 10,000 First Student and First Transit workers in states and provinces across North America in the first year of a three-year plan to reach majority representation.
- The Teamsters will recruit 20 new Teamster locals to become engaged in school bus organizing and representation over the next year. We will use the power of this Workers Congress, expanding our member organizer network to over 100, expanding the use of our Drive Up Standards website, and continuing our organizing and bargaining work at school bus yards.
- The Teamsters will carefully monitor the activities of the "Independent" Monitor and Observers and will issue a report on these activities in mid-summer and at the end of the year, providing an overall assessment.
- The Teamsters will bargain significant and important gains for our membership, bargain to organize, pursue national model contract language, and use our power at the table and in the yards to provide the foundation upon which we will all build this movement.
- The Teamsters will pursue political goals that create more opportunities to organize, and to work with politicians and political structures to further drive up standards in the industry.
- The Teamsters will continue to build a movement of North American school bus and transit workers for real power to win well-deserved economic gains, respect and dignity on the job and a voice for the future.



**Drive Up
Standards**
School Bus and Transit Workers United