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Executive Director

BUCKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT #22
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with facts about the unfortunate incident that occurred yesterday involving an Intermediate Unit van. Additionally, we want to reassure you of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit's priorities and continued commitment to maintaining the health and safety of all of the children we educate and transport each day.

Yesterday, July 15th, an Intermediate Unit van driver left a student unattended in a vehicle from approximately 9:30 a.m. until noon. When it was discovered that the child had been left in the van, the child was attended to by an on-site nurse and transported by ambulance to a local hospital for evaluation. The child was treated and released to the parents later in the afternoon.

The safety of the children in our care is of the utmost concern and focus to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. To this end, our Intermediate Unit does not tolerate conduct inconsistent with this core value. This driver did not follow through on this critical responsibility nor did the driver follow Intermediate Unit policy. As a result of this incident, the driver was immediately suspended from all duties and termination proceedings are in process.

We regret that this happened. Transporting precious children each day to and from school requires careful planning and coordination, keeping student safety at the forefront. This incident was an exception, not at all typical of the behavior of our staff.

Once we became aware of the situation, we immediately communicated with the parents of the children that were transported by the particular driver. We have communicated with our school district partners and our school board members. We continue to cooperate fully with the local police authorities to complete the comprehensive investigation of this matter. We have reviewed our procedures and related policies and have reinforced with all staff the expectations associated with our core value of keeping students safe. We have immediate plans to provide additional training to staff to ensure the safety and well-being of the children entrusted to our care.

The staff of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit is heartbroken and concerned. We extend our deepest apologies to the student and parents as well as to our entire community and pledge to work with you to rebuild the trusting relationship that is at the center of your child's education with the Intermediate Unit.

Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or JoAnn Perotti, Director of Strategic Services, at 1-800-770-4822 extension 1120 or jperotti@bucksiu.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barry J. Galasso