

# When staff aren't told how best to help a child...



## Melanie from North Clackamas pays the price.

“I work as a school bus driver. There’s usually only one staff member — me — on the bus. We have various students with disabilities and behavioral issues. The problem we have is a lack of training, and there’s not much you can do if you are attacked.

“As drivers, we are never told about a student’s behavior patterns and what may trigger them. We are not included in these discussions, and often it is the same students who injure drivers and staff.

“Just this past month, a driver was attacked at the student’s home stop. Even the parent couldn’t control the child. And by the time

you call it in — if you can — it’s too late.

“I also know of cases where aides were attacked. In a classroom, when a student has a meltdown you can remove other students from the classroom. You don’t have that option on a bus.

“We cannot do our jobs to the best of our ability if we are not informed and included in the behavior management plan.”

Melanie Garrison  
School Bus Driver  
North Clackamas School District

In a scientific survey of 1,988 educational employees from 106 Oregon school districts, just

# 42%

of school employees working with students on an Individualized Education Program are asked to participate in developing behavior management plans.

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