



International Association of Fire Chiefs

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October 31, 2023

Mr. Clary Mole
EMS Specialist
Office of Emergency Medical Services (NPD-400)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Request for Information for the EMS Education Agenda 2050 [DOT-NHTSA-2023-0037]

Dear Mr. Mole:

On behalf of the approximately 12,000 members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I thank you for requesting information to help guide the development of the *EMS Education Agenda 2050*. The IAFC looks forward to working with you to develop this important document that will build upon the 2000 *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. The IAFC's response to select questions from the Request for Information are below:

1. What are the most critical issues facing EMS education system that should be addressed in the revision of the *EMS Education Agenda*? Please provide specific examples.

The most critical issues facing the EMS education system are:

- a. Training and education of instructors and program directors in education best practices.
- b. Decreased number of students in some areas of the country going into EMS.
- c. Providing examples of hybrid and distance education models.
- d. Helping states and local agencies attract quality EMS instructors that can provide valid and unique solutions to the delivery of EMS education.

2. What progress has been made in implementing the *EMS Education Agenda* since 2000?

The mandatory accreditation of Paramedic education programs was achieved beginning in 2013. New programs continue to be added each year to the pool of accredited programs in every state. The requirement by the National Registry that -- in order to take the paramedic examination -- the student must graduate from an accredited program has increased the number of accredited programs to almost 650 with another 120 programs holding a Letter of Review that are seeking accreditation.

There are plans to provide voluntary AEMT accreditation for program beginning in 2025.

4. As an EMS Stakeholder, how might a revised *EMS Education Agenda* be most useful to you?

We recommend that the revised *EMS Education Agenda* provide updated methods of education and an overall examination of the delivery models that are in place now that were not in place in 2000.

5. What significant changes have occurred in the EMS education system at the national, Federal, State, and local levels since 2000?

The following significant changes have occurred in the EMS education systems since 2000:

- Mandatory Paramedic program accreditation.
- Updates of the National Scope of Practice.
- Updates of the Education Standards.

6. What significant changes will impact the EMS education system in the next 25 years?

We believe that the following significant changes will impact the EMS education system in the future:

- Alternative methods of providing initial EMS education including hybrid and distance education.
- Methods for Continuing Education.
- The potential for a decreased number of students interested in working within EMS.

7. How might the revised *EMS Education Agenda* contribute to enhanced EMS for children?

The revised EMS Education Agenda should include specific training programs and tools for providing EMS to children. These programs should be designed for initial and continuing education for EMS programs. They should be updated over time as is necessary.

8. How might the revised *EMS Education Agenda* support and/or promote data-driven and evidence-based improvements in EMS education systems and EMS practitioner practice?

There has been much more research around EMS education and that information can help provide more evidence-based decisions on the delivery methods and outcomes of EMS education programs.

9. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* enhance collaboration among EMS systems, health care providers and facilities, public safety answering points, public health, public safety, emergency management, insurers, and others?

This is an important topic that should be discussed in the *EMS Education Agenda*.

10. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* be used to promote community sustainability and resilience?

This is an important topic that should be discussed in the *EMS Education Agenda*.

11. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* contribute to improved coordination for disaster response, recovery, preparedness, and mitigation?

This is an important topic that should be discussed in the *EMS Education Agenda*.

12. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* enhance the exchange of evidence-based practices between national, Federal (and military), State, and local levels?

The revised *EMS Education Agenda* should provide information about the collection of evidence-based practices and how that information is gathered and used in education programs.

13. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* support the seamless and unimpeded transfer of military EMS personnel to roles as civilian EMS providers?

There has been progress in the transfer of education for military EMS personnel and that pipeline needs to continue. The *EMS Education Agenda* should review state and local procedures to transfer military EMS personnel to civilian procedures and include best practices from those efforts.

15. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* support improved patient outcomes in rural and frontier communities?

The revised *EMS Education Agenda* can provide benefits to rural and frontier communities in the same manner that it would assist every community.

16. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* lead to improved EMS systems in tribal communities?

The revised *EMS Education Agenda* can provide benefits to tribal communities in the same manner that it would assist every community.

17. How could the revised *EMS Education Agenda* promote a culture of safety among EMS personnel, agencies, and organizations?

The Culture of Safety should be included as a part of the curriculum of all EMS programs.

18. Are there additional EMS attributes that should be included in the revised *EMS Education Agenda*? If so, please provide an explanation for why these additional EMS attributes should be included.

There needs to be a detailed look at best practices for Education along with any changes in the Scope of Practice that have been updated in the past 20 years.

19. Are there EMS attributes in the 2000 *EMS Education Agenda* that should be eliminated from the revised edition? If so, please provide an explanation for why these EMS attributes should be eliminated.

No, we do not think that any parts of the previous *EMS Education Agenda* should be eliminated.

20. What are your suggestions for the process that should be used in revising the *EMS Education Agenda*?

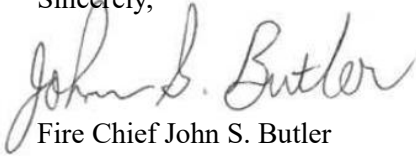
We believe that NHTSA should gather national stakeholders together for a collaboration of work on the *EMS Education Agenda 2050*. This gathering will provide an open and robust discussion about the topics and information needed to update the EMS Education Agenda.

21. What specific agencies/organizations/entities are essential to involve, in a revision of the *EMS Education Agenda*?

The organizations represented in the 2000 *EMS Education Agenda for the Future* should be included in the revision of the *EMS Education Agenda*.

The IAFC thanks you for the opportunity to provide input to the Request for Information. We would like to continue to work with NHTSA as you update the *EMS Education Agenda*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Butler".

Fire Chief John S. Butler
President and Board Chair

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