



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**OAKLAND, IA
CRASH SUMMARY REPORT**

A. CRASH INFORMATION

Location: 17000 Block 480th St, Oakland, Pottawattamie County, Iowa
Vehicle 1: 2004 IC, Model 3S530, 65 passenger school bus
Operator 1: Riverside Community School District
Date: December 12, 2017
Time: Approximately 06:52 a.m. CST
NTSB #: **HWY18MH003**

B. CRASH SUMMARY

On Tuesday, December 12, 2017, about 6:50 a.m. central standard time, a 2004 International school bus, occupied by a 74-year-old driver, was traveling southbound on 480th Street, a 24-foot-wide, two-lane gravel roadway near Oakland, in Pottawattamie County, Iowa. The driver turned to the right into a driveway in the 17000 block of 480th Street and picked up his first passenger, a 16-year-old student. As the bus backed out of the driveway, its right rear tandem wheels crossed a 3-foot-wide earthen strip adjacent to the roadway and dropped into a 3-foot-deep ditch. Although still in contact with the ground, the right rear drive wheels lost traction, and the bus became stuck with about half of the vehicle positioned across the gravel roadway. The driver attempted to move the bus forward out of the ditch. As he was doing so, a fire began in the engine compartment and spread into the passenger compartment. Sometime during this event, the grass and vegetation at the rear of the school bus also caught fire. For unknown reasons, the driver and student passenger did not exit the school bus.

As a result of the crash, both occupants died as a result of the fire.