

44th ANNUAL
PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
SAFETY COMPETITION
June 23 & 24, 2023



Driver Rules, Regulations & Information
Mount Nittany Middle School

State College, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by



INTRODUCTION

Safety Competitions have proven to be one of the most effective instructional tools to improve a person's driving skills. The State School Bus Drivers Safety Competition emphasizes the following objectives:

1. To motivate reinforcement of learning and implementation of good practices involved in superior job performance as a school bus driver.
2. To recognize excellence and provide for demonstration of the skills and responsible performance of the demanding job of the school bus driver.
3. To develop public awareness of the skills and responsibilities involved in the job of a school bus driver.
4. To encourage communication between drivers to share awareness and experience.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 44th Annual State School Bus Driver Safety Competition will be held on Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24, 2023, at the Mount Nittany Middle School in State College, PA. Ten (10) contestants from each Intermediate Unit (IU) can participate in the State competition based on the results of competitions held within/or by each IU in the last twelve (12) months. If more than ten (10) register within one Intermediate Unit, the Safety Competition Committee will determine the ten (10) contestants.

A \$50 registration fee per contestant includes the cost of the provided meal. Payment is to be remitted with the contestant's Application. Contestants will be responsible for their travel and lodging expenses. The written test and driving test will be conducted at Mount Nittany Middle School.

PROCEDURES

Registration for all contestants will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Friday, June 23, in the lobby of the Mount Nittany Middle School. Safety Competition orientation and written test will follow registration (see Schedule of Activities).

Contestants will be assigned a number, by random drawing, when registering. Contestants will be expected to drive in that order unless the judges rule otherwise.

LATE ARRIVAL WILL DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT!

When registering, each contestant will be required to show the following current documents:

- a. Class A, or B with P and S endorsements (L restriction removed)
- b. Current School Bus Driver Certificate (S endorsement card)
- c. Current Physical Card, with valid physical date

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING THE CORRECT DOCUMENTS. DRIVERS WHO DO NOT HAVE CURRENT CORRECT DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE HAVE CARDS CHECKED BY YOUR SUPERVISOR PRIOR TO TRAVELING TO PENN STATE.

All contestants must report by 6:45 a.m., Saturday, June 24, to The Mount Nittany Middle School parking lot for instructions on driving skills requirements. The actual driving skill phase will start immediately thereafter. Contestants must stay on the property until called for competition.

Any driver who knowingly accepts signals from spectators will automatically be disqualified.

In all driving events, the bus door must remain closed unless rules and regulations of a particular Safety Competition event require they be opened. It will be assumed that the driver has pupil passengers on board throughout the contest, and therefore, must conduct him/herself accordingly. Demerits will be assessed any time the door is opened during the operation of the vehicle.

Each contestant will be required to maintain a proper driving position except when Safety Competition rules and regulations require the contestant to leave the seat of the vehicle. The proper driving position is being firmly in the seat with feet firmly on the floor or on the controls. A contestant is not permitted to put his/her head out of the bus window. The driver seat belt must be worn and snugly fastened during the competition. Demerits will be deducted from the total score if the seat belt is not properly fastened.

These contest rules will apply even though they may differ from the rules and regulations the driver normally operates under.

Contestants will be placed on their honor not to assist each other in any way. In the interest of fair play and good sportsmanship, contestants should not discuss the Vehicle Inspection bus defects with each other or even with spectators. This could result in total disqualification.

The bubble of the tire is part of the tire for measuring on parallel, curb-line, back-up, and tread of the tire for the controlled right turn. The location and size of the course area will help determine the length and/or entrance for the events. The turning radius of the buses being used will also determine the length of events.

Winners will be announced after lunch on Saturday, June 24, following the driver competition. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. Awards will be presented to the top ten contestants receiving the most points in that order in the conventional class. Awards will be presented to the first, second, and third-place IU teams. The IU teams shall consist of the top ten (10) drivers in that IU.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE - Only contestants may file a grievance during any portion of the contest. The Grievance Committee will review each grievance. The committee's decision will be final.

TIE - In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by totaling the first four (4) driving events if the contestant is involved in the tie. If a tie still exists, the fifth driving event will be considered, etc.

The information available in this booklet is designed to serve as a guide in the preparation of contestants for the State School Bus Driver Safety Competition. Each contestant should very carefully read all the instructions in this booklet. This is a general overview of what will be expected in each phase of the Safety Competition activities.

SUMMARY OF POINTS PER EVENT AND TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POSSIBLE POINTS</u>
Written Examination	100
Simulated School Bus Stop	50
Offset Alley	50
Diminishing Clearance	50
Railroad Crossing	50
Straight Line	50
Controlled Right Turn	50
Back-Up	50
Parallel Parking	50
Curb Line Park	50
Vehicle Inspection	<u>50</u>
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	600

WRITTEN TEST

MAXIMUM SCORE - 100 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: There are many rules and regulations with which a school bus driver must become familiar with which he/she must faithfully observe. These laws, rules, and regulations were established as a result of years of study and experience. The purpose of this test is to determine the extent of the contestant's familiarity with these important guidelines for safe driving.

INSTRUCTIONS: The contestant will receive a test booklet consisting of fifty (50) questions. The contestant will choose the best answer and mark his/her answer sheet accordingly. Contestants must print legibly and clearly on the answer sheet.

A forty-five (45) minute time limit is given to complete the test.

For each correct answer, the contestant is awarded (2) points. All questions were compiled by PennDOT from the following publications:

1. Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual, Penn DOT Publication #117
2. Pennsylvania Driver's Manual, PennDOT Publication #95
3. Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 75, Vehicle Code
4. Pennsylvania Commercial Driver's License Manual, Publication #223
5. Pennsylvania Transportation Code, Title 67

All answers were determined by information found in the above publications.

SIMULATED SCHOOL BUS STOP

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: To determine the contestant's depth perception, ability to use cross-view mirrors, and the ability of the driver to bring the bus to a smooth, complete stop while in the process of picking up or discharging students.

INSTRUCTIONS: A Four feet (4') long stop line will be established to represent the stop location. The contestant will be expected to bring the bus to a complete stop as close to the stop line as possible and adjacent to the school bus stop sign. Only one stop should be made. Demerits will be given for more than one stop. Demerits will also be given if headlights are not on, if the contestant's personal appearance is not acceptable, and if seatbelts are not worn or properly worn. Inappropriate appearance would include, but not be limited to flip-flops sandals, cut-off jeans, "macho" tee shirts, etc.

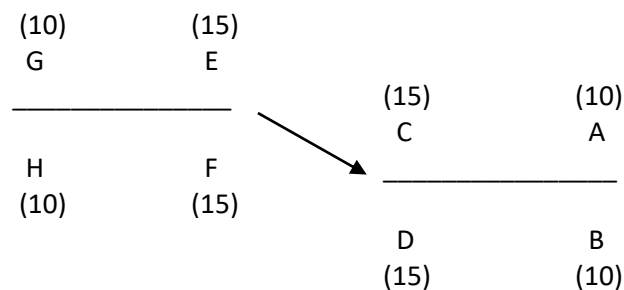
OFFSET ALLEY

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to handle the bus under actual or simulated driving conditions. An offset alley is set up to determine the contestant's ability to drive the bus through two offset lanes with minimum hesitation and without touching barriers.

INSTRUCTIONS: Two sets of parallel barriers are set up ten feet (10') apart. The right-hand barrier of the first set is placed in a direct line with the left-hand barrier of the second set. The distance between the two sets of barriers (from the end of the first set to the beginning of the second set will be the length of the bus plus approximately three feet (3') depending on the bus used.)

Five (5) demerits will be given for each instance of stopping the forward motion of the bus while proceeding through the offset alley. Fifty (50) demerits will be given each occurrence the contestant opens the door while the bus is in motion. The contestant will be disqualified (50 demerits) if the bus is backed up at any time during the event.



DIMINISHING CLEARANCE

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: In this event, the driver is required to drive the bus in a straight line with diminishing clearances, and also to drive in a smooth, continuous manner.

INSTRUCTIONS: For purpose of conducting this event, four (4) pairs of parallel standards will be set up; each pair of standards parallel one to the next. The distance between each pair of standards will be approximately twenty-five feet (25'). The width of each pair will vary as follows:

1. At the start of the event the width of the first pair of standards will be equal to the widest part of the bus plus eight inches (8").
2. The width of the second pair of standards will be as above except plus six inches (6").
3. The width of the third pair of standards will be as above except plus four inches (4").
4. The width of the fourth pair of standards will be as above except plus two inches (2").

The driver will be expected to proceed through this lane in a smooth and continuous manner without touching any of the marker standards.

RAILROAD CROSSING

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: To evaluate the driver's degree of care and knowledge of laws, rules, and regulations required to operate a school bus across railroad tracks.

INSTRUCTIONS: A simulated railroad crossing will be established. The layout will be as follows:

1. A simulated roadway that crosses a parallel set of tracks
2. A railroad crossing sign will be placed on the right side of the roadway

Everything required of a driver will be judged from the time the contestant approaches the crossing until he/she reaches the other side of the crossing. The driver will be checked on the use of mirrors, stopping the bus, opening the door, checking traffic, driving across railroad tracks, etc. While most violations charged in this test are violations of fixed laws and regulations, some are based on generally good, acceptable, safe driving procedures.

STRAIGHT LINE

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: To determine the driver's ability to maneuver the wheels of the school bus over a straight path of given width.

INSTRUCTIONS: The wheels of the bus must travel the path without striking or moving the markers with any wheel. The bus must be operated in a continuous forward motion. The distance between the markers is the width of the dual wheels plus three inches (3"). The total distance of the event depends on the amount of space available.

Points will be deducted for stopping during the event, touching or knocking the marker, backing during the event, or driving to either side of the markers.

CONTROLLED RIGHT TURN

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to determine a driver's proficiency in judging the distance and handling of a bus in making a right-hand turn at a street intersection.

INSTRUCTIONS: Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and recovers from the turn. If any tire touches the curb line at any time during this test, 50 demerits will be charged. If the right edge (the visible edge) of the right rear tire (outside tire on dual wheels) is completely within a demerit zone, the appropriate demerits will be made. In order to warrant a demerit score, the color of the demerit stripe shall be visible to the curb-side judge while the tire is completely within the demerit zone. For scoring purposes, only that portion of the tire tread that actually is in contact with the ground will be judged. Demerits increase in value as the position of the right rear outside tracking wheel moves in a wider arc throughout the turn. Fifty (50) demerits shall be charged if the driver fails to activate the right turn signal.

BACK-UP

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to park the bus in a parking stall without touching upright standards, stall lines, or the rear barrier of the stall, demonstrating the knowledge of the length width, and turning ability of the vehicle.

INSTRUCTIONS: Each stall (to back into) is identified by parallel lines on the pavement ten feet (10') apart. Each front corner will be marked by upright standards that will not interfere with the backing of the bus. In order to limit the driver to established maneuvering space, the front mirror limitation line will be marked perpendicular to the parallel stall marker lines. The approach to the backup stall will be made from the side only. The distance from the front stall standards to the wheel limitation line will be no more than fifty feet (50').

The driver will be permitted two (2) backups before demerits will be charged for excessive backing. Six (6) demerits will be given for each instance of backing more than twice. Upon completion of the event, the bus should be parked as nearly to the center of the stall as possible. Two demerits will be given for each inch or fraction thereof, the bus is off the center line. Centering will be determined by the relationship of the center of the rear bumper to the center of the stall. Ten (10) demerits will also be given for every six inches (6"), or fraction thereof that the bus is parked in excess of one foot from the rear barrier. The contestant will notify the judge by sounding the horn upon completion of the event.

Upon completion of this event, the bus should be parked as near to the center of the stall as possible. Centering the bus in the stall will be determined by the relationships of the center of the rear bumper to the center of the stall marker. The contestant will apply the parking brake and sound HORN upon completion of the parking maneuver.

If the driver opens the door while proceeding through the event demerits will be given.

THREE (3) MINUTE time limit is placed on this event. If the time limit is exceeded, fifty (50) demerits will be given.

PARALLEL PARKING

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to park the bus parallel to a curb without touching the barriers placed at both ends of the parking area, without touching the curb, and the vehicle parks within 5 inches of the curb. It is also designed to judge the contestant's ability to drive the bus out of the parking area without touching the barriers or the curb. Measurement will be taken at the rear duals on all vehicles. The bus's front measurement will be taken in front or just behind (based on the model of the vehicle) the service door.

INSTRUCTIONS: A measurement will be made to determine how close the bus is parked to the curb line, and for determining the number of demerits to be charged (five (5) demerits for every five inches (5") beyond the first five inches from the curb). This is a timed event. The driver is allowed three (3) minutes from the time the front bumper of the bus first passes the rear barrier on approach. The driver must have the bus parked and sound the horn within the three (3) minute limit. Normally the distance is the bus length plus 7 feet.

Backing In: The driver will be permitted to back up twice before demerits are charged. (5 demerits for each instance of backing more than twice) Fifty (50) demerits for first touching the curb with the tire.

Pulling Out: The contestant will be permitted to back up twice before demerits are charged. (5 demerits for each instance of backing more than twice). Fifty (50) demerits for first touching the curb with the tire. Demerits will be charged for failure to use directional signals and failure to cancel the signal.

CURB LINE PARK

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to test the skills of the driver to make a loading or unloading maneuver that requires pulling into a curb parking zone that has a limited distance.

INSTRUCTIONS: The event will be set up to simulate a limited curb length between other parked vehicles. The loading area will be marked by barriers which will be spaced 2 times the length of the bus plus 2' – 3'. The contestant must pull into the curb and pull out without backing up.

The contestant will be judged on the use of the right turn signal when pulling in and the left turn signal when pulling out. The proper use of mirrors will also be judged. The 5-point mirror check should be made. The bus will be measured at both the rear tire and service door entry. You are scored on the farthest away from the curb. The contestant must place the bus in neutral, apply park brake and sound the horn.

VEHICLE INSPECTION

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to evaluate the contestant's efficiency in conducting such an inspection.

INSTRUCTIONS: This test is divided into two (2) categories; the first is an evaluation of the systematic manner in which the contestant makes the inspection, and the second is a judgment of the driver's ability to make a complete physical inspection of the bus. This includes checking under the hood, the general condition of the bus interior, all glass, seats, first aid kit, mirrors, windshield wipers, emergency exit, entrance door, air and tires, and general exterior.

Conventional buses will be used. A time limit of five (5) minutes will be allowed for each contestant. If any reasonable assistance is needed in checking the bus, the judge will assist in any way that does not violate the spirit of the test.

Contestants will inform the judge verbally concerning the items they feel are defective. There will be five (5) defects on the vehicle that should be discovered by the driver on the daily check. Unless instructed otherwise, the vehicle is not to be started. The judge will inform the contestant when there is one minute remaining for inspection.

If there needs to be any backing of the school bus in any event for alignment, the contestants will be told on Saturday morning during the walk-around at 7:00 a.m. Drivers and Judges will be told the limitations on how far a contestant can back up.

SCHOOL BUS SPECS

Year: 2021

Make: Freightliner

Model: Thomas C2

Capacity: 81

Length: 39.975 bumper to bumper

Width: 94"

Fuel Type: Diesel

Mirrors: heated west coast and cross over

Door Control: Air Door, 3-position door switch

Air brake equipped: Yes



The 44th Annual PA School Bus Driver's Safety Competition

June 23-24, 2023 – State College, PA

****Driver Entry Application****



This registration form and payment must be postmarked by June 2, 2023 to ensure entry.

Contestant Application Fee: \$50.00. Additional Lunch Tickets can be purchased for guests. Please send:

1. Check payable to **PA School Bus Association**
2. Mail to **PA School Bus Association 623 North Broad Street Lansdale PA 19446.**

Name of Contestant _____ Phone () _____

Class of Competition: Conventional PLEASE BE AWARE – this year we will only have one class for competition!

Contestant Address _____

City

State

Zip

Contestant E-Mail Address: _____

District or Contractor Name _____ Phone _____

Employer Contact _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Address of Employer _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Intermediate Name _____ IU # _____

Official Acknowledgement of Contestant: I hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. I am not in the employ of the PA School Bus Driver's Safety Competition.
2. The Pennsylvania School Bus Association Safety Competition Committee and all of its officers, representatives, and staff are released from any liability and any right of action that might arise from any damage or injury which I may receive while attending or participating in said Safety Competition.
3. The Pennsylvania School Bus Association Safety Competition Committee or its assignees shall have the right to use any personally related articles or photographs in connection with the Competition for whatever purpose, whether in advertising, promotion or exhibits.
4. I will be bound by all orders, rules and regulations governing the Pennsylvania School Bus Association Safety Competition while participating in said competition.
5. I understand that no weapons (knives, guns, etc.) of any type are permitted at the site of the Safety Competition.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Certification of Employer or District Supervisor: I certify the above driver has not had a chargeable accident since September 1, 2022.

(Signature)

(Name and position)

(IU#)

PLEASE COMPLETE PAGE 2

44th Annual PA School Bus Driver's Safety Competition

Contestant Biographical Information

IU # _____

District or Contractor Name: _____

Contestant # _____
(will be assigned on Friday)

Please answer the following questionnaire. This information will be used by the announcer when you are called to begin your skills event.

Name _____ Age/DOB: _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Home Address: _____

of years as bus driver: _____ Years Accident Free: _____

School district you drive for: _____

Spouse: _____ # of Children: _____ # of Grandchildren: _____

Hobbies & Interests: _____

Is this your first safety competition? YES NO # that you have competed in _____

Awards/Recognition _____

Comments from Employer _____

Why do you like being a professional school bus driver (something we can announce on the PA system)?

Please complete this section if you will be bringing guests to the luncheon (feel free to use another sheet if needed)
Please include \$18 for each guest for lunch. Tickets will not be sold at the door this year. All meals must be paid for in advance. Checks should be made payable to **PA School Bus Association**. Lunch Tickets can be picked up during Registration on Friday Evening. **Deadline: June 2, 2023.**

Name of guest (s)

For office use:

Date _____

Check # _____

Total \$ _____

Total Number of Guest Lunch Tickets _____ @ \$18 = \$ _____
Registration Fee \$ _____ 50.00

Total Amount Enclosed (payable to PA School Bus Safety Competition) \$ _____