

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEWS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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2016 Driver Trainer Instructor Workshops

Registration is now open for the 2016 Driver Trainer Instructor Workshops to be held in Frankfort.

Four workshops have been scheduled; each workshop has a limit of 24 participants.

All registrations must be submitted through Event Brite and the links are provided below.

In the case of high demand, districts may be limited on the number of candidates they can send. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) may provide spots for all districts needing to have someone trained.

[DTI #1 – April 5-8, 2016](#)

[DTI #2 – June 14-17, 2016](#)

[DTI #3 – July 12-15, 2016](#)

[DTI #4 – July 26-29, 2016](#)

STAK Summer Conference June 25–28

Register now for the Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK) summer conference; the dates for 2016 are June 25–28. The conference will take place at the Galt House hotel in Louisville. STAK has lowered the cost of registration which will allow school districts to bring more of their transportation staff.

Motivation speaker Clebe McClary will be the key note speaker at the Monday night banquet. Quinton Higgins Jr., a bus driver and survivor of the 1988 Carrollton bus crash, also will be a featured speaker during the conference.

REGISTRATION

\$200 - Regular Conference

\$125 - Technicians Conference

A special first time attendee registration rate is also being offered:

\$150 - Regular Conference

\$100 - Technicians Conference

2016 KAPT Summer Conference set for June 20-22

The Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) Conference will be June 20-22. Please go to www.thekapt.com to register. Should you have any questions, please contact Bud Tarry (270) 670-4672 or Wayne Winters (270) 836-0674.

KYTA Annual Workshop June 15

Kentucky Technicians Association (KYTA) workshops will take place again this summer in the same location as last year, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. There was a great turnout last year and the hope is this year will be even better. Based on last year's feedback, there will be more classes this year, including the Kentucky State School Bus Inspectors Four Hour Update. This will make the KYTA workshop a one-stop shop for technician training in 2016.

Don't let your technicians miss this event! There is **NO COST FOR ATTENDING TECHNICIANS**; sponsors have graciously covered all costs associated with the training classes. All you need to do is sign your technician(s) up and pay for the hotel room of each technician who is attending. More information on hotels and rates will be sent out closer to the workshop. Seating is limited to 160 technicians. Please sign up today to reserve your technician's spot.

For reservations, please send name of the technician and school district name to Dave_Garbrough@Whayne.com.

Workshops

Weds, June 15

Thurs, June 16

Friday, June 17

Tentative Schedule

Noon – 4 p.m.

7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Inspectors Four Hour Update)

Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers Conference

by Elisa Hanley

<http://stnonline.com/tsd/index.html>

March 11-16

Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers Conference and Trade Show (TSD) is coming to Louisville. This is a fantastic conference. There will be more than 35 speakers at the conference from across the U.S., and from KDE. There also will be NAPT Professional Development courses available for those who are working towards the NAPT certification in Special Needs Transportation. This is a great opportunity to get this certification, right here in Kentucky. The 19th Annual Special Needs Team Safety "Rodeo" is also going on at this time. Training starts Friday, March 11 and the "Rodeo" is on Saturday, March 12. There will be a reception and banquet for the participants on Saturday night.

If your district is planning on sending attendees, please send me an email. We would love to cheer them on.

Kentucky Senate honors school bus drivers with a resolution

By Mike Marsee -

January 14, 2016

michael.marsee@education.ky.gov

The Kentucky Senate applauded school bus drivers with the adoption of a resolution Tuesday, January 12, 2016, declaring its appreciation to drivers across the state.

Sen. John Schickel (R-Union) introduced [the resolution](#), and Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Boone County School District Superintendent Randy Poe and transportation officials from Boone County schools joined him on the Senate floor for its reading.

Schickel, who also is a substitute bus driver in the Boone County district, told his fellow senators that school buses remain the safest way to transport students and drivers deserve recognition for their performance in an important and sometimes difficult job.

"We've honored a lot of folks in our state, but I don't ever remember us honoring school bus drivers," he said. "This resolution is to thank them, and I would encourage you to go back to your district and thank your school bus drivers as well."

STAK website updated

Student Transportation Association of Kentucky's (STAK) website has been updated. It now has videos to share on school bus safety, evacuations, off road recovery and CDL pre-trip inspection.

KDE moving in the summer

KDE will be moving sometime this summer to a new building. When we receive our new contact information, an email will go out to all directors. We do ask that you be patient with us during this transition. There is no expectation of loss of service to you, and we hope to make it as seamless as possible.

Bus Pilots completed

The 2016 School Bus Pilots have been completed by Dave Mangum and Elisa Hanley, along with Dale Penn of Franklin County and Pete Jones of Jefferson County.

Driving impaired reminders

During winter time, it is common for some drivers to come down with a cold or the flu. Please keep in mind, if you are prescribed a medication or are taking a medication, the following regulation:

702 KAR 5:080

A driver taking medication either by prescription or without prescription shall report to the immediate supervisor and shall not drive if that medication may affect the driver's ability to safely drive a school bus or perform other driver responsibilities.

Along with this regulation, remember, DWI/DUI is driving while under the influence of intoxicants (alcohol) or of any substance or substances which impair driving ability.

The DUI law establishes minimum jail times (which cannot be probated, suspended, conditionally discharged or otherwise subject to early release) if convicted of DUI and aggravating circumstance(s) exist:

Aggravating Circumstances (KRS 189A.010 [11]) Resulting in higher minimum jail time:

1. Over 30 mph over speed limit
2. Wrong way on limited access highway
3. Causes accident resulting in death or serious physical injury
4. Alcohol level of .15 or more within 2 hours after operating a vehicle
5. Refusal to submit to testing
6. Transporting passengers under 12 years of age

DUI Penalties:

- \$200 - 500 Fine
- First Offense Within a Five Year Period
- 2 to 30 Days in Jail*
- 90 Days of Alcohol or Substance Abuse Program
- 30 to 120 Day License Suspension
- Possible 48 Hours - 30 Days Community Labor
- Any commercial learner permit holder or commercial license holder convicted of DUI in any type of motor vehicle will be suspended for (1) one year. They will be required to pay a \$50.00 reinstatement fee and start over with written, vision and skill tests, just like a new applicant.

“Check the Door Once More” Posters

by Elisa Hanley

As stated in my email in January, the Center for School Safety and PTSI have assisted KDE with posters regarding school bus draggings. Each district will receive posters for their compounds.

I attended the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services this past fall in Richmond, Virginia. Kathy Furneaux of PTSI spoke to us regarding dragging incidents. The flyer and poster templates are provided free from PTSI to help remind drivers of the need to be safe and vigilant.

Thanks to the assistance of some STAK regional directors and DPP's that attended a meeting in Frankfort, KDE has already been able to get some of the posters out. Over the next several weeks, the remaining posters will be mailed. Thank you for all that you do!



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Bus specifications updated

The specification meetings for the 2017 school buses have been conducted. We had good participation and conversations regarding the safety of our buses. Thank you to all those who participated online.

The safety committees approved several options to include tinted windows. Districts will be allowed to pilot the Mobile Eye Collision Avoidance System, PV360 Camera system, and sensors for backing up buses.

Additionally, the following items will be required: handrail on the right-side stepwell for special needs buses, heating for the driver's feet on all buses, and two sunshields vs. the current setup.

Need bus drivers?

I contacted the VFW Headquarters and received the following email regarding recruiting. Please utilize them if you are trying to find drivers.

"Thank you for contacting VFW National Headquarters, and for hiring veterans. The VFW is working with Hiring America to help ensure veterans can find suitable employment after their discharge. The VFW sponsors www.vetjobs.com to ensure veterans and service members have a veteran specific job searching website to search for employment. <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs> and www.hirepurpose.com are other job searching websites designed specifically for veterans that have a link for employers.

Additionally, a local VFW Post may permit the job vacancy announcement on their bulletin board, website or newsletter for its member's attention and to inform other local veterans. Please visit VFW's [Find A Post](http://www.vfw.org) at www.vfw.org to locate a local VFW Post and its contact information near your location. Ask to speak with the Commander, Adjutant or Community Service Chairman."

Communicating with parents

KDE has received several calls from parents regarding the length of their child's bus ride. Something I have learned from these calls is that the parents do not recognize the shortage that is currently happening in the districts. They think it is a personal vendetta against them. Please assure them that it is not and be truthful about why the changes are happening. Although they may not like the answer, they may be able to help with a solution. Some parents may be willing to meet you along the route to shorten the ride by 30 minutes or more. I know it's a longshot, but it may happen.

Reminder

The calculator to help determine the cost per mile for extra-curricular trips can be found online at <http://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Documents/Cost%20Per%20Mile%20Calculation%20for%20Districts.xls>.

KDE would like to express their gratitude to each district that participated in the driver shortage survey this past fall. It was found through the 117 responses, that 40 percent of the districts have a shortage of drivers. Also 55 percent of the districts don't always have a technician available in the shop at all times due to them driving. In early January I provided directors with PowerPoints regarding this shortage. If you have had discussion with your leadership regarding the shortage or have shown the PowerPoints, please send me the feedback you are receiving. We are continuing to look at ways to help the districts and this feedback may prove to help us more.

KDE also sent card and flyer templates to assist with recruiting. We hope these are helping as well. Don't forget to talk to your local unemployment offices, Co-ops or even Temp Services who might have ideas for you.

Running the numbers

Number of school buses: 9,855

Number of Certified Driver Trainers: 639

Number of Certified School Bus Inspectors: 648

Number of CDL licensed school bus drivers: 10,240

Number of school bus routes: 8,252

Number of miles traveled in 2014-2015 school year: 109,601,388

Number of miles to and from school 2014-2015 school year: 94,203,723

KDE has two new contractors and one returning contractor. Please welcome to the team Joan Anderson, Virgil Miller and Roger Kerns.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

If your district is interested in PSAs regarding passing a school bus while the red lights are flashing, there are five, great free videos provided by the Child Safety Network, Safe Bus and The School Bus Safety Council. They can be found at <http://www.schoolbussafetyco.com/request-free-psas-for-tips-for-bus-safety>.

Training videos

Has your district created training videos that you would like to share with other districts? If so, please send me a link to the video online and I will post them to our website.

Tips and Reminders

All drivers, including substitutes, should have a signed contract on file for the current school year.

Driver performance evaluations and drug screen results should not be kept in a driver's training file. These items are considered confidential and should be kept in a separate file.

2016 six-hour update dates and locations

Six-hour updates are now posted online. All updates will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. local time. Please contact John Wyatt, john.wyatt@education.ky.gov, with any questions.

June 6

Breathitt High School Library
2307 Bobcat Lane
Jackson, KY 41339
Steve Banks
(606) 666-2339

Caldwell County Board of Education
612 W Washington St
Princeton, KY 42445
Jimmy Dyer
(270) 365-8000

June 8

Grayson County Board of Education
790 Shaw Station Road
Leitchfield, KY 42754
Braxton Allen
(270) 230-7633

Rowan County Senior High School
499 Viking Drive
Morehead, KY
Tom Tufts
(606) 784-3167

June 10

Pulaski County High School Auditorium
511 East University Drive
Somerset, KY 42503
Richard Edwards
(606) 679-1123

Boone County High School
7056 Burlington Park
Florence, KY 41042
John Giltz
(859) 415-5390

June 22

Bowling Green (KAPT)

June 23

Jefferson County Southern High School
8620 Preston Hwy.
Louisville, Ky 40219
David Breitenstein
(502) 485-3113

June 25-28

Louisville (STAK)

July 7

Frankfort-TBD

Reminders

<http://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>

There is currently a Safety Poster Contest underway and applications are being accepted for the Buster Bynum Scholarship and the Kentucky Association of Pupil Transportation Education Scholarship. Please promote them amongst your team. Let the drivers know so they can tell the kids on the bus about the poster contest. We would love to have lots of entries!

Free Danger Zone training

The School Bus Safety Company and School Transportation News is providing the newest Danger Zone training program free. It includes a trainer's guide, a video and a driver's handout. <http://www.schoolbussafetyco.com/danger-zone-program/>

Action needed by transportation directors – Driver Database access

As part of our ongoing efforts for data security we want to remove any users who are inactive within the district. Please review your listing in the driver database and email Monica Napier, monica.napier@education.ky.gov, with any changes.

Contact Information

Elisa Hanley – Section Supervisor

(502) 564-5279 ext. 4406

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Debra Vaughan – Reimbursement

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debra.vaughan@education.ky.gov

Dave Mangum – Buses

(502) 564-5279 ext. 4422

dave.mangum@education.ky.gov

Monica Napier – Data Submission

(502) 564-5279 ext. 4436

monica.napier@education.ky.gov

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