

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEWS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Kentucky Department of Education has Moved!

The Kentucky Department of Education's new location will be at 300 Sower Blvd., 4th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. Please be sure your employees are aware of the change, especially when they are coming to Frankfort.

New Director Training

As a director, it is important to understand what is required of you and your team, as well as how to utilize your team. KDE will be hosting a one-day new director's class Oct. 27 to review laws and regulations, driver trainer responsibilities, online training and Finance 101. This training will be held at KDE's new location at 300 Sower Blvd. in Frankfort. This is a full day class. We are restricting this training to new directors (employed in the past three years), as there are only 50 available seats. You must [register](#) prior to the class so that we are able to prepare all materials for you. Eight hours of EILA credit will be available.

As a director, whether new or seasoned, what do you wish you had been told, shown or taught when you first became a director? Please pass this information on to [John Wyatt](#) or [Elisa Hanley](#) for future training.

Training Update

This summer, about 650 inspectors were updated by 22 school bus inspector instructors at 17 locations. In addition, the school bus inspector instructors conducted 10 new inspector classes and added 50 new inspectors to our ranks. Their efforts have allowed the program to enter the new school year in good shape.

Over 600 driver trainers were recertified during their annual training at 10 locations, and 72 new driver trainer instructors were trained this year during spring break and over the summer.

Thank you all of the instructors and third party examiners for their assistance and support!

Thank you to KAPT, STAK and the KYTA boards for allowing KDE to provide an update at their conferences. Half of those trained this year were trained in these conferences.

Important

KDE has been informed that several districts are allowing drivers to drive while their licenses are either inactive or invalid due to an expired medical card or other reasons.

We have confirmed with the Kentucky State Police that a bus driver with an inactive or non-valid license

will be cited for driving without a license if he/she is pulled over while driving a commercial vehicle. This does not affect a Class D operator's license status, only CDL status.

KDE receives information from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) **daily** regarding

drivers who have inactive, non-valid or suspended licenses. Our staff does its best to contact each district to inform them of the issue and works closely with KYTC to resolve issues on the same day if possible. Each district must do its part in a timely manner in order to have the issue resolved same day.



Poster Contest Winners and 2017 Contest Announcement

KDE sponsored a School Bus Safety Poster Contest as part of the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) National School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The posters were judged at the local district level, and the winner of each category was sent to KDE. Each poster was judged at the Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) and Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK) conferences. State winners are submitted to NAPT and, the national winner will be chosen during the NAPT Conference and Trade Show. The winning poster will be used to promote the 2017 National School Bus Safety Week.

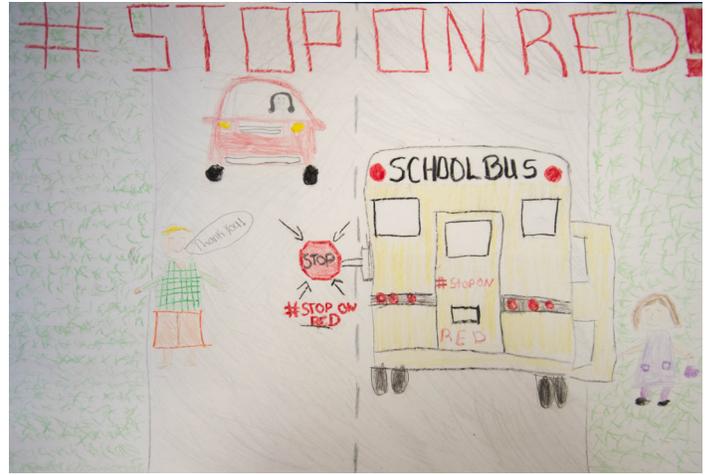
Get ready for next year! The 2017 contest will run from Sept. 1-May 1. All schools are eligible to submit their winners to the KDE Pupil Transportation Unit. KDE will be accepting posters that comply with the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest rules. These rules can be found on the NAPT website.

Contact Elisa Hanley, Pupil Transportation Section Supervisor, at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4406 with any questions.

Congratulations to all of the winners!



Division 1: Grace Rogers, 2nd Grade, Age 9, Menifee County Elementary School, Frenchburg



Division 2: Amiyah N. Collier, 5th Grade, Age 11, Stevenson Elementary School, Russellville



Division 3: Delaney Golden, 8th Grade, Age 13, Menifee County Elementary School, Frenchburg



Division 5: Megan Rust, 5th Grade, Age 11, River Ridge Elementary, Villa Hills

Back-to-School Campaign

This year, we asked districts to get their parents, guardians, members of their community and any student drivers that will be driving to school, to take a pledge and get involved in school bus safety. Some schools took up the challenge and provided information during open house. Other schools have required their teen drivers to sign the pledge in

order to drive on school property. If we continue to work with our communities and provide information, if even one child's life is saved, we have done our best.

I pledge:

To have a POSITIVE ATTITUDE toward every school bus I meet every day.

To remember that the precious cargo

the school bus carries is someone's child

and that child is the future of my community and nation.

To not be angry when they STOP for students to load or unload.

To obey the laws that are meant to keep our little brothers and sisters safe.

To take a deep breath, leave a few minutes early and arrive safely.

Talent in Transportation

Do you have drivers, technicians, other employees or students who work in television, radio and advertising or have special talents such as creating videos, posters, fliers, cartoons or presentations? KDE would like to add them as part of its resources to help move transportation into the 21st century. As you are aware, KDE's transportation team consists of four Frankfort staff members. We are always looking to find ways to show work from Kentucky and have home-grown products rather than going outside of the state. So if you have a team that would like to create videos, public service announcements (video and audio), coloring books/cartoons, training materials, artwork or anything else that will benefit our drivers, driver trainers, directors and students, please provide this information to [Elisa Hanley](#). Let her know what they do well, what they have done and what they would like to do to get involved. Let's use our talent to move Kentucky pupil transportation forward.

District-Wide 'Think Like a Kid' Tour

Employees put themselves in students' shoes prior to first day of school

By **Wes Feese**

Media Relations, Adair County Schools

Almost every single Adair County school district employee boarded a school bus on the first day of school to kick off the 2016-17 school year with the "Think like a Kid" tour.

The purpose of the Aug. 10 exercise, according to Superintendent Alan Reed, who spoke to faculty and staff before departing from Adair County High School, was for teachers, administrators, bus drivers and other employees to understand the rigors that some students go through just to make it to school each day.

"We want you to experience how taxing it is," Reed said, noting that some students spend more than an hour on the bus in both the mornings and afternoons. "We hope this puts you in students' shoes—some of them only 5 or 6 years old, just for a day."

The two-hour tour, which included approximately 40 employees per bus, allowed teachers and staff to see the perilous routes that some bus drivers must navigate daily, from narrow roads running beside steep bluffs to winding hill climbs and descents.

Federal Programs Director Steve Turner, who served as one of the de facto tour guides, explained that these roads are the ones Reed and Transportation Director David Jones investigate to determine if school should be canceled for snow.

"It might be clear in town or on (Ky.) 55, but they're not looking at the roads in town," Turner explained. "This is what they look at because these are the roads our drivers are on every day."

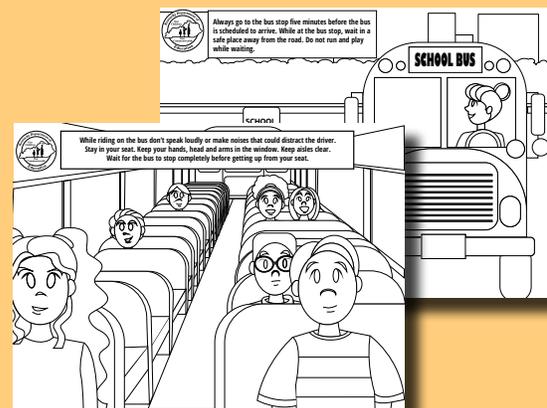
Another aspect of the tour served as a reminder to teachers the conditions in which some students live. Turner explained that Adair County's poverty rate, which hovers near 70 percent, includes many students in the district, and some poorer areas where many children live were pointed out, though no homes were pointed out specifically to protect families' privacy.

The event concluded with a meal for all employees at A Barn Affair at Turkey Trot Farms.

Adair County Board of Education Chairman Floyd Burton, who joined employees on the tour, said he was impressed with the idea of such a tour to bring in the new school year. "Seeing is believing," Burton said. "This really lets you see how where and how some of these kids live, and that's important."

Coloring Sheets

KDE has created coloring sheets that you can utilize for school bus safety training. These are located on the transportation website under [Back to School Campaign](#). They include [Sitting Quietly](#), [Waiting for the School Bus](#), [Crossing the Street](#), [Chasing the School Bus](#), [Railroad Crossing](#), [Boarding the School Bus](#), [No Food or Drinks](#).



Billboards



As part of KDE's [Back to School Campaign](#), billboard spaces were donated to KDE by Lamar Advertising Co. of Lexington, Outfront Media of Louisville and Fairway Outdoor Advertising in Eastern Kentucky to promote school bus safety across the state. There were 45 billboards in multiple locations and each were in place for four weeks. KDE pupil transportation, communications and procurement staff worked within a very tight deadline to make this happen.

If you did not have a billboard in your area and would like to have one, please feel free to reach out to your

local advertising representatives or other businesses to sponsor the message. Additional templates have been added to the website for your use: [billboard](#), [2-by-4-foot banner](#), [18-by-24-inch yard sign](#), [30-by-20-inch poster](#). If you are able to get sponsorship or able to put something up in your district, please send pictures and stories to KDE. We would love to share the message and support.

NHTSA's Guide for School Bus Stop Location

Every year thousands of students are transported by Kentucky school buses. Sometimes routes change and families are unhappy. One of the main reasons for change is safety and efficiency. As districts are making changes, we would like to provide a few reminders taken from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration guidance.

By adopting and documenting the use of a consistent set of criteria for school bus stop selections, it will make it easier to justify district decisions about stop locations. Safety is the primary consideration when evaluating a parent's complaint, not personal circumstances or convenience. Nevertheless, people involved in evaluating such situations usually recognize that all of these considerations may go hand in hand. Most districts recognize some issues and include specific language in their policies related to selecting school bus stops for children with special needs, homeless children and children who live along routes deemed hazardous, both within and outside eligible transportation zones.

It is important to work closely with the local law enforcement officers, because they can share data related to crashes and speeding prevalence that may indicate areas to avoid when possible. For areas where insufficient sight distance may be unavoidable, contact the local transportation authority to post warning signs when needed. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Code Devices (MUTCD), used by traffic engineers, describes use of school bus stop ahead signs based on sight distance. According to the 2009 edition of the MUTCD, the sign should be installed in advance of locations where a stopped school bus — picking up or discharging passengers — is not visible to road users for an adequate distance. The transportation authority can help determine what is considered to be "an adequate distance."

School transportation planners should encourage family members to walk with young students or rotate duties with other family members. Walking to the school bus stop with their child is a chance for family members to assess and teach pedestrian safety skills.

Schools that have expanded the zone where students are not eligible to ride the school bus might consider starting a Safe Routes to School program that focuses on making it safer for children to walk and bicycle to school. For more information on Safe Routes to School, contact the [Office of Local Programs](#) at (502) 564-2060.



Stop on Red - Car Fresheners

Kenton County created a unique way to bring school bus safety awareness to parents and the public. They handed out these car fresheners during the open houses at their schools. What a great way to make it an everyday reminder!

Due Dates and Reminders

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Aug. 1 - Oct. 15 | Download and update bus inventory for depreciation |
| Oct. 1 | Contact KISTA if buses are being financed. There will only be one KISTA bond this year. If you will be utilizing KISTA, please get it in by the deadline. |
| Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 | Order buses for May 15 deliveries. Download the purchase packet agreement from the KDE website, obtain local board approvals and place your order. |
| Nov. 1 | Transportation growth factor adjustment data due to KDE |
| Nov. 15 | KISTA orders due - There will only be one KISTA bond this year. If you will be utilizing KISTA, please get it in by the deadline. |

Professional Development

Whether you are a new or seasoned director, there are organizations that provide opportunities for you to continue your education by attending conferences, seminars and classes. In our state, there are two organizations that provide opportunities for you to learn, grow and network: the Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) and the Student Transportation Association of Kentucky (STAK). Each summer, both organizations put on great conferences and provide information which addresses issues that are going on throughout the state and nation.

KAPT

KAPT offers seminars during the school year, outside of their summer conference. This year, they will have a fall seminar Sept. 22-23 in Lexington. There will be speakers from several areas of KDE. Topics will include the do's and don'ts of procurement, do's and don'ts of finance, T-codes, medical requirements of special needs, behavior management of students with special needs and several other topics. KAPT will also be discussing its mentoring program to help new directors partner with seasoned directors. It is sure to be a great seminar, and we hope to see you there. Go to the [KAPT website](#) for more information.

NAPT Professional Development

NAPT's Professional Development Series (PDS) consists of nearly 40 different courses that serve as the foundation for professionals seeking their certification. Topic areas include: orientation, communications, financial management, human resources management, physical resource management, operations/systems management, leadership, special education and emergency management. Classes are available online and during conferences. You do not have to be a member to take the classes, but there is a difference in pricing if you are not a member.

In addition to taking classes as part of the PDS, you can also earn NAPT industry certification in several areas, including:

- Certified Pupil Transportation Specialist
- Certified Supervisor of Pupil Transportation
- Certified Director of Pupil Transportation

For your staff, what better way – other than money –, is there to show them your appreciation and how you value their knowledge and education? There are two certifications they can receive while bettering their skills in training, presenting and networking:

- Certified Pupil Transportation Driving Instructor
- Certified in Special Needs Transportation

Finally, NAPT has a webinar series covering a range of topics, held on the last Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. ET. You must be a member of NAPT to attend, but there are great presentations that are free to members that might just help you with an issue that you are facing.



Local and National Conferences

Along with local conferences, there are several national conferences which can help you expand your knowledge as well.

NAPT Annual Summit

Nov. 4-8, Kansas City, Mo.

PDS courses are provided during this summit. This year, there will be a special event in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). According to NAPT, “NAPT and TSA are joining forces to offer a groundbreaking, never-been-done safety and security event designed to prepare delegates to prevent, respond to and recover from a student transportation security incident. This must-attend event will include classroom instruction, table-top exercises, real-life drills, and full-scale multifaceted exercises.” There will be great keynote speakers, including Jeff Bauman, who witnessed the Boston Marathon bombers drop the backpack full of explosives and was able to identify one of the two bombers. The NTSB has been invited to provide the latest federal and regulatory updates. There will be more than 30 workshops available with a variety of topics.

Transporting Students with Disabilities & Preschoolers Conference (TSD)

March 17-22, Frisco, Texas

TSD is a great conference for those who provide transportation to students with disabilities and preschoolers. This conference has different tracks, with more than 30 sessions and workshops to choose from, as well as hands-on training. It also offers the PDS courses by NAPT that offer credits toward the certifications for special needs. This year, TSD came to Louisville. It was a great conference, and something can always be learned from them.

Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC)

July 23-26, Asheville, N.C.

SESPTC is coming to Kentucky in 2019! The SESPTC conference includes 14 Southern states that operate much like Kentucky in the aspect of district-owned vehicles vs. contracted bus companies. They also provide the Buster Bynum Scholarship to each of the 14 states, which Kentucky students have benefited from. In 2016, there were three conference tracks:

- Data and Technology Management
- Transportation Management
- Emergency Management

The NTSB provided updates on crash investigations and seatbelts. There were presenters from many of the 14 states. This conference is also very welcoming of family, with outings for the family while the transportation folks are in classes.



Garage Stars

Earlier this year, School Transportation News asked for nominations of fleet managers, supervisors, lead technicians, foremen, et cetera. who stand out in their area of operations for their leadership and expertise in the bus garage. There were 105 nominations for 94 technicians from around the nation, and Kentucky Public School Districts nominated nine Garage Stars! Almost 10 percent of all the nominations were from Kentucky. What a fantastic way to recognize your staff! Congratulations to each of the garage stars:

- Eddie Clan, Bullitt County Garage Supervisor
- Ronald Daniel, Boone County Lead Mechanic
- Mike Grout, Boone County Multi-Fuel Mechanic
- Ted Hall, Russell Independent Transportation Area Supervisor
- Kevin Medley, Meade County Lead Mechanic
- Pat Hoskins, Madison County Assistant Director of Pupil Transportation
- Jimmy Joe Rudicill, Boone County Multi-Fuel Mechanic
- Charles Utz, Boone County Multi-Fuel Mechanic
- Randy Yocum, Lincoln County Head Mechanic

Here are their stories, as submitted by those who nominated them:

Garage Star Eddie Clan

Garage Supervisor, Bullitt County Schools, Shepherdsville

Mr. Clan has been employed as our garage supervisor since September 2003. Over the years he has worked diligently to make improvements in the transportation department. His number one priority has always been safety for our students. He is very organized and maintains a consistent schedule for ensuring all buses in the fleet are in compliance with the state and maintained to high standards. He goes out of his way to assist bus drivers to make sure they stay well informed and stay on schedule. He supports his mechanics and provides a very pleasant and supportive environment so they can effectively complete their extremely important jobs.

During the winter months he assists with checking roads when we have inclement weather. Mr. Clan has improved the transportation department in many ways. He has been instrumental in getting GPS tracking on every bus, camera systems on all of our buses, an automated fueling system for all district vehicles and just recently a new maintenance and inventory software program. Not only has he made all of these possible, he works consistently to keep all programs updated and working. The garage also services 37 additional district vehicles. He provides excellent customer service to all school and district staff. As the transportation director, he make my job so much easier. Mr. Clan is a positive part of the transportation department and he is a pleasure to be around. Eddie Clan is definitely a Garage Star.

Garage Star Ronald Daniel

Lead Mechanic, Boone County Schools, Florence

A great shop can only be led by a great person, and Ronnie is just this for our shop. His ways of work are so exemplary that you seldom know if a change has taken place, but rest assured he is always seeking new ways to make it greater. Keeping it simple has always been his motto, and this effective way of getting the job done can be seen through the personnel he hires and the amount of working flowing out the garage doors.

Our mechanics know that Ronnie is there for them and can be trusted to do what is best for them and the buses they put on the road. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Ronnie and his excellent leadership skills in making our shop recognized by the Kentucky Department of Education as an example for others to follow.

Garage Star Mike Grout

Multi-Fuel Mechanic, Boone County Schools, Florence

Mike is a true visionary when it comes to maintaining our motor pool vehicles. Our motor pool went from repairing it when it broke to preventative maintenance and has all rested on Mike's shoulder and capabilities. The motor pool includes cars, vans, trucks, plows and tractors, and Mike can handle it all with a very pleasant attitude. He is dedicated to keeping this fleet in great shape and takes pride in having little to no breakdowns of vehicles. He is a great asset to our shop.

Garage Star Ted Hall

Transportation Area Supervisor, Russell Independent Schools, Russell

Ted is the go-to guy for every single thing related to transportation. He is by far the best mechanic alive. There is nothing from the diesel systems to the composition of every piece of metal on a vehicle about which he does not maintain expertise. He is generous beyond his calling and will do every possible task to ensure safety and continuity among our students. He is particularly attentive to our special needs population. When something goes wrong, many of our students will only respond positively to Mr. Ted. Ted is a gentleman of the highest character and I believe he is who we would like our young people to become.

Garage Star Pat Hoskins

Assistant Director of Transportation, Madison County Schools, Richmond

Pat has been an employee of the Madison County schools transportation department for more than 36 years, since March 1980. She started as a school bus driver, was selected to be one of the first driver trainer instructors and was chosen to work half-days in the transportation office while still driving a bus for half the day when the department found itself in need of new leadership. She became the assistant director 18 years ago under director Skip Benton.

Pat is the go-to person in the transportation department. Whenever there is a discussion about policy changes or how best to initiate new initiatives, Pat is always included in the discussions, and her knowledge and understanding of how our department operates is unparalleled. Her guidance and advice is sought by all, superintendent, principals, teachers and especially the current director of transportation. She has been instrumental in bringing the Madison County schools transportation department to being one of the best in Kentucky, as shown by our recent selections as having the driver trainer section of the year, the mechanical section of the year and the driver trainer instructor of the year. Pat is truly the Garage Star at Madison County schools.

Garage Star Kevin Medley

Lead Mechanic, Meade County Schools, Brandenburg

Managing the garage is not just a job for Kevin Medley, it is a family tradition. Kevin's father Jimmy was a mechanic and then lead mechanic during his 35 years of service to Meade County schools. When his father retired in 2004, Kevin came on to assist Tim Haley at the garage. When Tim retired in 2013, Kevin stepped into the leadership shoes once filled by his father.

Kevin's pride in the performance of his department is seen not only through the service records of the fleet but also in way he maintains a safe, clean and well-organized garage. When you add up the years of outstanding service of the Medley family, there is almost a half-century of ensuring that the students of Meade County ride on safe, reliable transportation. It is the unsung, blue-collar heroes like Kevin and his dad Jimmy who deserve our respect and admiration.

Garage Star Jimmy Joe Rudicill

Multi-Fuel Mechanic, Boone County Schools, Florence

Though with the shop for only five years, Jimmy Joe has already stepped up into some big shoes. He has been actively taking part in learning all the roles of the shop in order to ensure this department will be carried on successfully in the future. Approximately half of the current staff in the shop will be retiring in the next four to five years, and Jimmy Joe has made it his job to make sure the shop will continue successfully after all this experience leaves. He has been eager to obtain additional training and asking the questions to gain the knowledge needed to sustain the shop's excellent service.

Garage Star Charles Utz

Multi-Fuel Mechanic, Boone County Schools, Florence

Charlie has been with our district for 24 years and is an intricate part of the shop. He has worked his way up to an extremely experienced mechanic and willingly shares his knowledge regarding buses and the ways of work for the shop. His experience is greatly relied on, and the new shop staff know to seek out his help. This year Charlie went way beyond his role as a shop mechanic by driving bus routes to help out during our driver shortage. Charlie volunteered to even take a bus route for six weeks until the shortage was eased. This is a true sign of a valuable employee, and we appreciate having him on our team.

Garage Star Randy Yocum

Head Mechanic, Lincoln County Schools, Stanford

As a 25-year employee as a mechanic, Randy was selected by his peer mechanics for the newly developed position of head mechanic. This peer selection was made unanimously by veteran and new mechanics, as Randy is both respected as a knowledgeable problem-solver and a good, patient leader to the new mechanics. Randy is endearing to all stakeholders and uses effective personable communication skills in resolving any issue that arises with intelligent compassion, superior experienced mechanical skills and with an understanding spirit. He gives of his time to help others from buying a child a soft drink, talking a new driver through a situation, taking initiative to anticipate student safety situations to talking and listening politely with an unreasonable caller.