

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEWS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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KAPT Conference June 15-17

<http://www.thekapt.com>

The Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) Conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green June 15-17, 2015.

It included the six- hour update for driver trainers and four-hour update for technicians. The conference started with a great presentation on reprimands, policies and procedures, which was conducted by Regina Jackson of English, Lucas, Priest and Owsley. Other topics that were covered throughout the conference were fast path/physical aggression; special needs and suspending special needs students from the bus; insurance, and how to reduce cost for vehicles and workman’s compensation; seizures and epilepsy; and bullying. An active shooter presentation was also given by law enforcement.

During the conference’s banquet several great leaders in the transportation community were recognized, including:

- Technician of the Year: Jerry Noble, Ft. Knox
- Schools Head Technician of the Year: Shaun Steenbergen, Barren County Schools
- School Bus Driver of the Year: Lisa Williamson, Crittenden County Schools
- Driver Trainer of the Year: Shelia White, Calloway County Schools
- Superintendent of the Year: Randall Jackson, Allen County Schools
- Transportation Director of the Year: Wendell Spears, Allen County Schools

Attention directors and trainers

Drivers are not certified to drive a school bus until all of their information is entered into the driver database. It is only then that the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) certifies the individual to drive. If the information is not entered and the driver has an accident, you are liable.

If a driver does not have ALL training completed, he or she is not certified to drive.

If the Driver Review II and III are not completed on time, they are not certified. It is imperative that Driver Trainers keep accurate records for training and know when a driver must complete his or her training. If training is not completed and a driver is driving, they may be decertified on the spot. Do not take the chance!

Newsletters in the works

It has been some time since a Pupil Transportation Newsletter has gone out. I am hoping this will be the first of many. Your feedback is much appreciated. I ask that if you have stories to share, please send them in and we will share them.

This is an opportunity for each transportation department to share their good news and tips of the trade.

Buster Bynum Scholarship awarded

Congratulations to Abigail Smallwood of Pike Co.!

Smallwood will receive a \$2,500 scholarship from the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) Buster Bynum Scholarship. Abigail is the daughter of school bus driver Clifton Smallwood. She has a GPA of 4.0 and aspires to be a middle school teacher.

Each year, SESPTC awards a scholarship to a student from each of the 14 member states, including Kentucky.

The student's parent/ guardian must have been employed in the public school pupil transportation field for at least the past three years. Active eligible employees include school bus drivers, aides, monitors, mechanics, parts clerks, foremen, managers, trainers, supervisors, directors, and inspectors.

Selection of applicants is based on the following criteria: scholarship, leadership, citizenship, service and an essay.

- Scholarship—A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) minimum.
- Leadership—Student must demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and abilities in co-curricular activities and community service activities.
- Citizenship—Student must demonstrate exemplary citizenship qualities that include not only maturity, loyalty, responsibility, integrity and trustworthiness; but also a concern for the well-being of all citizens.
- Service—Student must render unselfish service and assistance to others, to the school and to the community.
- Essay—Student must submit a typed essay of no more than 500 words on why he/she is applying for the scholarship and how the scholarship will be used.

Safety reminder

For the safety and protection of the students on the school bus, DO NOT put names above the seats. Although it may seem like a good idea so the child knows where to sit, people outside of the bus can use that information to lure children into danger.

Leadership hours and conferences

Registered attendees are eligible for six hours of Effective Instructional Leadership Act (EILA) credit for attending the conference. Conferences do not require and will not receive an EILA approval number. All driver training six-hour updates are also approved for six hours of EILA credit.

If you have any questions about the EILA credit, please contact [John Wyatt](#).

STAK Conference

June 27-30, 2015

<http://www.staky.org>

This year STAK will be holding its conference at the Galt House in Louisville.

Included is the 6-hour update for driver trainers, 4-hour update for technicians, Drug & Alcohol Reasonable Suspicion Certification, WC 18 & Wheelchair & Occupant Restraint Certification, new directors orientation by KDE, pupil behavior management, use of alternative vehicles, special needs scenarios, teaching special needs to drivers, teaching off road recovery and many more! KDE will be available to answer questions and help with reimbursements.

A Derby Dinner and an Awards Banquet will be held to provide recognitions, awards and scholarships.

NAPT National Certification tests

The National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT) offers professional development courses in which you can obtain professional Certification. The certification types include: [Pupil Transportation Specialist](#), [Supervisor of Pupil Transportation](#), [Director of Pupil Transportation](#), [Pupil Transportation Driving Instructor](#) and [Special Needs Transportation](#).

An application must be submitted to NAPT along with documentation supporting educational background and expertise in the selected certification category.

Once received, the application is reviewed to ensure that all required documentation has been submitted and contains evidence of knowledge, skill, proficiency and responsibility in the appropriate professional category. The review and evaluation of the application and related materials will be completed within two months of the date the application is received.

For more information, please go to the NAPT website [Professional Development - http://www.napt.org](http://www.napt.org)

KYTA Conference

June 24-26

Kentucky Technician's Association (KYTA) will be holding an event at the Elizabethtown Community Technical College starting at 2 p.m. CT on June 24.

This event is sponsored by Thomas Bus, IC, Bluebird, Cummins and Allison dealers. This event will be free to Kentucky Schools Bus Technicians.

Seating will be limited, and seats will fill up fast!

For any questions regarding KYTA or this event, please contact David Garbrough with Wayne Supply Co.

Driver trainer reminders

1. ALL eight-hour updates MUST be done AFTER the last day of school but BEFORE the first day of school the following school year. This is unlike almost everything else that is on a calendar year. The eight-hour updates are for the SCHOOL CALENDAR and can change from year to year.
2. All eight-hour updates MUST consist of the core curriculum. They cannot include time for physicals, insurance updates, or other information. There are additional resources and videos for use on the KDE Pupil Transportation website.
3. All drivers hired after January 16, 2003, must complete Driver Review III. This review is done three to six months after completion of Driver Review II and must be done with students on board the bus.
4. Make sure to obtain a Criminal Records Check from the Kentucky State Police. All other checks are only supplemental and do not fulfill the initial employment check required per regulation.
5. All drivers must have a contract on file. It does not matter if they are full-time, part-time, sub-drivers or activity-only drivers. If they are driving a school bus for a school district, they must have a contract.

Contact [John Wyatt](#) if you have any questions.

Buster the Bus



Buster the Bus is available from your region's Commercial Driver's License Third Party Examiner. Each district may check out Buster for up to two weeks at a time.

A driver training instructor who has been trained in the operation of Buster must use and pick up the robot. If your district has instructors who need Buster training, please have them contact the third party examiner to schedule a training class.

Pre-trip inspections

It is critical that school bus drivers do their pre-trip inspections. It is not only required by law, but the reality of it is, it might save their lives. All too often drivers are signing the Pre-Trip Inspection form when there are safety items not working properly. Drivers are NOT to drive a bus that has defective safety related items and must turn the bus into the garage. Items that are often seen as signed okay on the pre-trip but should not be include: emergency door/window buzzer, hard to open/close emergency door/window, lights out, holes in the seats, loose seat bottoms.

During a fire, the toxicity of the material under the Kevlar can kill a child before they even have a chance to evacuate. Proper compartmentalization cannot be done if the seat bottoms are loose. This can mean life or death for a child in an accident.

Please talk with your technicians or contact [Dave Mangum](#) should you have any questions.

Happy 50th!

On May 21, Bivian Hancock of Henderson County completed 50 years as a school bus driver! Already she has committed to driving next year!

Please let us know

If you have a driver, mechanic, instructor, or other employee, who has put in 40, 50, 60 or more years of great service, we would like to hear about them. Please contact [John Wyatt](#).

Air Brake Test

This test MUST be done every day!
It is critical and any loss of pressure MUST be reported immediately.
Do not wait...you might not make it to your next destination.

Recruiting

There is no doubt that recruiting great drivers is hard. We get asked all of the time about what to do. There is no one answer to this question. Recruiting is a problem nationwide, not just Kentucky.

So what can you do about it? There are many ideas; which one works best for you is going to be trial and error.

- TV, radio and internet ad
- strategically place buses in the county and put a large help wanted sign on them
- team up with the unemployment agency
- recruit at colleges and technical schools
- put flyers throughout the county
- contact local National Guard and Reserve Centers
- contact local veteran associations
- attend local and online job fairs

Do not be afraid to go outside of your comfort zone to recruit the best and most passionate people. Don't be afraid to ask other districts how and what they are doing. Attending the summer conferences will be a great way to discuss this problem.

What are you doing to bring great drivers into your district?

Please send your tips and suggestions for others to [Elisa Hanley!](#)

IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

Transportation Adjustment Form End of Year – June 30
Vocational Transportation – June 30
Certification of Transportation Mileage – July 8
Bus Incident Reports for the Fiscal Year – Aug. 1

Bus Ordering

Each year, the Kentucky Department of Education opens up the opportunity for school districts to purchase buses through the Kentucky Interlocal School Transportation Association (KISTA).

The Kentucky Interlocal School Transportation Association (KISTA) is a not-for-profit association of Kentucky school districts. KISTA was formed by a group of superintendents with the intention of providing school districts with a financing tool for purchasing school buses.

Each year KISTA offers this program to school districts to finance the purchase of new school buses and take advantage of tax-exempt financing rates. To date, KISTA has financed over 3,600 school buses totaling more than \$210 million.

In order for Kentucky to receive the best prices on school buses and have them ready for the next school year, orders for KISTA school buses must be in to KDE by Nov. 1.

Before a school bus can be purchased through KISTA, information must be presented to and signed by the local board of education. Buses are financed at a low interest rate and paid off within 10 years.

It is imperative that all orders be presented to KDE by Nov. 1 of each year in order to pool the orders and obtain lower operating costs for the bond.

Should you have any questions regarding the program, please contact [Dave Mangum](#).

Update bus inventory for depreciation – Sept. 1- Oct. 30
Transp. Growth Factor Adjustment Form – Nov. 1
Review School Bus Inventory for Accuracy – Dec. 30

***PLEASE NOTE: KDE REQUESTS

EACH DISTRICT TO COMPLETE A FORM, EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION TO REPORT.

School bus safety comparison

From 1994-2004, 71 school bus passengers died in crashes. In the year 2004 alone, traffic accidents killed 31,693 people traveling in cars and light trucks.



KAPT Scholarships Awarded

KAPT has awarded \$1000 scholarship awards to:

- Abigail Smallwood, Shelby Valley High School, Pikeville,
- Matthew Whitehead, Anderson County High School, Lawrenceburg
- Casey Whitlock, Green County High School, Greensburg

To be eligible, the following criteria applied:

The student must have a parent/guardian actively employed in the public school pupil transportation field with a gross taxable family income of no more than \$55,000 for the past tax year.

The student must have at least a 3.0 (B) scholastic average, must have graduated from a Kentucky public high school and must be attending a postsecondary educational institution in 2015.

Congratulations to each of the winners!

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