

# PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEWS

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## Notice

All drivers in the driver database must have updated information in order to maintain certification. Any driver that does not have up-to-date information is no longer able to drive. Certification is completed once the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) receives the updated information in the driver database.

The Kentucky Department of Transportation database and the KDE database do not sync. This means that the drivers expiration dates and examination dates have to be manually updated in the KDE database. If this is not done, a driver is NOT certified to drive. Each district should be monitoring this daily. KDE receives daily reports and will make phone calls on all of the expired licenses and exams. If a driver is no longer with your district or on authorized leave, please enter a termination/non-active date. This will remove the driver from the active expired report.

As a courtesy to KDE, please update the data as soon as you receive it. This not only helps the reports we receive, but also helps ensuring the liability of the school district is covered.

Any directors that are not driver trainers and would like to have view access, please see your Web Apps Admin Point-of-Contact (WAAPOC) to ensure your title is listed as the Transportation Director and pre-register. To pre-register, go to <https://applications.education.ky.gov/login>.

Please email Monica Napier at [monica.napier@education.ky.gov](mailto:monica.napier@education.ky.gov) for additional assistance. Click [here](#) to find your district WAAPOC.

Ricky Courtwright, Marion County, just completed his 41st year in transportation as a mechanic, driver, instructor, driver trainer, aka....”the godfather of transportation”.

JK Hourigan, Marion County, completed his 52nd year of bus driving and will be back for more.



## Driver Database

When entering information in the driver database, please use the suffix if there is one. There are drivers with the same name and having the suffix may help better identify a driver. This will also assist KDE in receiving correct reports from the Kentucky Department of Transportation.

## School Bus Joke – <http://kidsjokesoftheday.com>

Teacher: What’s big and yellow and comes in the morning to brighten a mother’s day?  
Pupil: The school bus!

## National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Free Training (NHTSA)

Do you have drivers that might need reinforcement training? NHTSA has nine different modules that include an instructor guide, presentation slides and handouts. Loading and unloading, adverse weather and vehicle training are just a few of what they have to offer. These are intended for experienced school bus drivers, not as a training for new school bus drivers.

## Transporting Students with Disabilities & Preschoolers (TSD) Conference & Tradeshow



There is a FANTASTIC opportunity for directors, driver trainers and any special needs drivers coming your way. The TSD Conference is coming to Louisville. There will be specialized training, networking capabilities and certifications available.

KDE representatives Elisa Hanley and Debra Vaughn went to the conference last year in Frisco, Texas and found the information to be invaluable. The conference features national leaders giving presentations and answering questions.

This year's TSD Conference will feature more than three-dozen education sessions and workshops, as well as hands-on training, a trade show and the 19th Annual National Special Needs Team Rodeo, co-presented by School

Transportation News and The National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT). This competition features more than two-dozen teams that compete in a skills competition to crown the nation's top school bus driver and attendant.

TSD also offers Professional Development Series training courses by NAPT that offer credits toward the new Certificate of Special Needs Transportation (CSNT) program.

## TSD Rodeo – Saturday March 12, 2016

Get ready for the Rodeo! During the Rodeo **drivers???** will be judged on:

Pre-Check Inspection, driving and backing a bus, Loading, unloading and securing students in wheelchairs and evacuating a special needs bus.

During the skills events, teams must maintain behavioral control of special students on the bus.

There also is a written test that you and your teammate will complete before arriving in Louisville, Kentucky. You will receive information on all skill areas prior to the Rodeo.

In addition to the competition, a full range of professional development opportunities and training sessions will be available. Trainings will include emergency evacuation training, BESI Securement Training, Q'Straint/Sure-Lok Securement Training and car seat training.

For more information go to <http://stnonline.com/tsd/roadeo.html>.

## KAPT Fall Finance Seminar

The Kentucky Association for Pupil Transportation (KAPT) will be conducting a Finance Seminar at the **Lexington Suites** Lexington on Sept. 24-25. The seminar will focus on transportation finances. The cost is \$200 and you can go to [www.thekapt.com](http://www.thekapt.com) to register.

KDE will have several representatives attending

to educate on what's involved in financing the transportation department. There will be sessions on the new red book **calculator**, special **need** reimbursements, McKinney Vento, vocational reimbursements, and bus ordering and inventory.

Pete Miller, KDE Consultant, will be taking you through a step-by-

step overview of YOUR transportation department. You will need to bring your Munis 901 report, which can be obtained from your finance officer. We ask that you also bring your Certification of Transportation Mileage/ Daily Vehicle Mileage To and From Mileage. KDE will not have access to print this during the seminar.

**It** should be one of the best seminars you will have an opportunity to attend.

Room reservations – 1-859-455-5000 or 1-800-EMBASSY

Room rates \$135.95 (includes breakfast and evening reception)

Embassy Suites in Lexington, KY

1801 Newton Pike Lexington, KY 40511

## Transportation – cost per mile calculator

In an effort to streamline the cost per mile for extracurricular activities and field trips, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has created a bus mileage calculator to help you determine your cost per mile. This should be calculated ANNUALLY, using financial data from the most current Annual Financial Report. Hover over the red tick marks to read comments with helpful information about the data requested. The calculator can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Pages/Reporting.aspx>.

If you have questions, please contact Elisa Hanley at [elisa.hanley@education.ky.gov](mailto:elisa.hanley@education.ky.gov), or via telephone at (502) 564-5279, ext. 4406.

## 2016 State School Bus Safety Poster Contest



KDE will once again be sponsoring the 2016 State School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The contest will be open from Sept. 1, 2015 to May 1, 2016. The poster must have the 2016 theme

“# STOP ON RED!” to qualify.

To see the state rules, go to <http://education.ky.gov/districts/trans/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>.

KDE will be accepting posters which comply with the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest Rules. These can be found on the NAPT website at <http://napt.org/resources/national-school-bus-safety-week.php>.

The Transportation Growth Factor Adjustment web-based form for fiscal year 2015-16 data is due to the Kentucky Department of Education Nov. 1. The data will be submitted via the web submission process. The submission application will only be open for a limited time starting Oct. 12 and will only allow one submission form per each district.

The Transportation Growth Factor Adjustment form can be accessed at the following link:

<http://education.ky.gov/districts/SEEK/Pages/SEEK-Transportation-Funding.aspx>

Please forward any questions regarding the Transportation Growth Factor Adjustment web-based form and submission to Debra Vaughan at (502) 564-5279 x 4450 or [debra.vaughan@education.ky.gov](mailto:debra.vaughan@education.ky.gov).

## National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)

National School Bus Safety Week is Oct. 19-23, 2015.

NAPT has webinars available for managers to be in the know. The webinars are to help with managing people and with managing the transportation department. Go to <http://www.napt.org/> for more information.

## School Bus Inventory- DUE NOV. 2, 2015

Please download and print your district's School Bus Inventory by going to <https://opsupport.education.ky.gov/BusInventoryFiles/>.

Please check your inventory closely and make the necessary changes as outlined in the instruction sheet. Make certain that all your buses are listed on the inventory.

The corrected copy of your inventory should be returned to Dave Mangum at [dave.mangum@education.ky.gov](mailto:dave.mangum@education.ky.gov) no later than Nov. 2, 2015.

## Initial Driver Trainer Instructor Workshops

KDE trained approximately 80 new driver trainers during the spring and summer of 2015. We conducted four classes with drivers from throughout the state.

Each year KDE conducts trainings during spring break and the summer. To register a candidate check our website starting in February for a listing of these trainings and current registration procedures.

A candidate must have a minimum of two years bus experience, be a licensed driver with at least a CDL B with the P & S endorsements, and be recommended by the district.

## KUDOS!

KDE would like to send a tremendous thank you and KUDOS to all the districts that allowed their trainers and third-party examiners to assist us during the Summer Driver Trainer Workshops. With your assistance, we trained over 80 new driver trainers this year!



## Buster the Bus

Many of the Kentucky's Busters are showing age. If your district has a Buster that is in need of repair, please contact the John Wyatt at [john.wyatt@education.ky.gov](mailto:john.wyatt@education.ky.gov) or Dave Mangum at [dave.mangum@education.ky.gov](mailto:dave.mangum@education.ky.gov) to discuss a possible solution.

## ATTITUDE

We are often asked to describe a "good" bus driver. While it is impossible to describe what a "good" driver looks like, it is possible to describe some positive attributes we should all strive for to be a professional driver. Zig Ziglar said: "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude." A positive attitude is something we can all demonstrate with our students and others. Let's be the best we can be this year in the area of our ATTITUDES!

## Laurel County Public Schools Obtains Bus Driving Simulator

Laurel County will soon accept delivery of a bus driver-training simulator from Simulator Systems International located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Drivers will be immersed in realistic situations that may be encountered during their trips, affording them an opportunity to practice each situation and enhance their skills.

The simulator is a fully immersive technology that will allow the driver the same control features found on a bus. The simulator platform will respond in the same manner as a bus, allowing the training environment to be as close to a real bus as possible. Bob Myers, Director of Transportation for Laurel County Public Schools, refers to this as "haptic touch. We want the drivers to sit in the seat and know their equipment to the point that it becomes a natural response. If the driver swerves or brakes hard in the simulator, the simulator will react in the same exact manner as an actual bus."

By presenting accurate, detailed and authentic simulation, Laurel County anticipates that the simulator will increase drivers' skills, ensure safety and allow the driver trainers to work one-on-one with all drivers in a safe environment. Emergency situations such as blown tires, animals crossing the road or mechanical failure can be introduced into the training as well. While Laurel County will continue to use live training behind the wheel on local streets and highways, the



simulator will allow the school district to minimize fuel costs as drivers train. The simulator will allow the trainers to stop the training scenario, discuss different techniques, and even "rewind" so the driver can attempt the scenario again. According to Myers, "While we value the experience many of our bus drivers bring to their daily job, evaluated experience is the key to ensuring every bus driver is correctly prepared."

Myers further states: "We will train our new drivers on basic vehicle operation, procedure training and handling of on board equipment while our experienced drivers will be placed in more advanced scenarios. The simulator will allow us to provide route familiarization and to create scenarios with different types of

weather and visibility (clear, rain, snow, ice, glaring sun, dusk, dawn and dark night). We can simulate other vehicles approaching our buses in an unsafe manner, allow the drivers to practice a difficult turn-around, drive a rural or city route and any other type of situation they may encounter daily. While we are already blessed with some good bus drivers, the simulator provides us with greater flexibility to enhance the drivers continued development."

The simulator will be incorporated into Laurel County's training program beginning in mid-September 2015. If you would like more information, or if you would like to tour Laurel County's bus driver training facility, please contact Bob Myers at (606)862-4768 or [bob.myers@laurel.kyschools.us](mailto:bob.myers@laurel.kyschools.us).



# Veterans return to civilian life behind the wheel



An initiative to ease soldiers back into civilian life has earned thousands of returning veterans their commercial driver’s licenses (CDL).

The success of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Military Skills Test Waiver Program comes at a time when school districts nationwide are scrambling to resolve a scarcity of school bus drivers.

In the last four years, the U.S. Department of Transportation program has helped more than 10,000 veterans and active duty personnel obtain a CDL by waiving the skills test portion of the application process to become a bus or truck driver.

“It is our duty to help returning veterans transition into civilian life, and I am proud that so many have used this

program to secure careers in the transportation sector,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

Coordinated by the Department of Defense and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administration, the initiative has also facilitated a reduction in the expenses for qualified drivers and operating costs to state licensing agencies.

Individuals taking advantage of the program include former military personnel, Reserves, National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard service members.

This boost in the driving pool should come as a relief for school districts across the country that are currently dealing with a shortage of eligible school bus drivers necessary to fill routes and get children to and from class.

“We want to put their valuable skills and experience to work driving the nation’s economy,” said Foxx.

If you have any news stories you would like to share with others, appropriate school bus jokes, KUDOS or other importation information, please send it to Elisa Hanley at [elisa.hanley@education.ky.gov](mailto:elisa.hanley@education.ky.gov).

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