

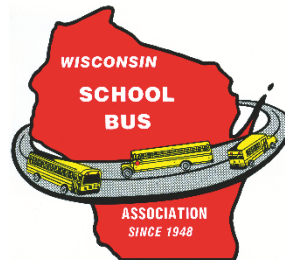
# 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

## WISCONSIN SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SAFETY COMPETITION

June 12 & 13, 2025



Driver Rules Regulations & Information  
Fox Valley Technical College  
Appleton, Wisconsin



Wisconsin School Bus Association  
*Safely Transporting Wisconsin's Future*

## **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:

- To motivate reinforcement of learning and implementation of good practices involved in superior job performance as a school bus driver.
- To recognize excellence and provide for demonstration of the skills and responsible performance of the demanding job of the school bus driver.
- To develop public awareness of the skills and responsibilities involved in the job of a school bus driver.
- To encourage communication between drivers to share awareness and experience.
- Put yourself in a testing mindset, similar to going to DMV for your license test.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin School Bus Driver Safety Competition is **FRIDAY June 13, 2025**, at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI. There are three bus types to compete in: Type A, Small Bus, (29 passenger); Type C, Conventional, (74 passenger); and Type D, Transit, (72 passenger).

The Competition will initially limit the maximum number of contestants to 100 and ten (10) registrants per organization. If 100 contestants have not been reached by May 31, WSBA may open up the remaining slots to organizations already registered.

There is a **\$75 registration fee per contestant**. 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 Fox Valley Technical College.

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. It is suggested, though not required, that contestants be selected by competing in local or Intermediate Unit competitions prior to entry in the State Safety Competition.

## **PROCEDURES**

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.

Registration for optional early arrival contestants starts **Thursday, June 12, from 6:30 – 7:00 pm**. There will be an orientation and drive-through of the course, **7:00 – 8:00 pm**.

**Friday registration is 6:30 - 7:45 am. All contestants must be finished with registration by 7:45 am, in order to compete.**

### **LATE ARRIVAL WILL DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT!**

**At registration, each contestant will be required to show their Class A, or B with P and S endorsements.**

**THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING THE CORRECT LICENSE. DRIVERS WHO DO NOT BRING THE CORRECT LICENSE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE HAVE CARDS CHECKED BY YOUR SUPERVISOR PRIOR TO TRAVELING.**

**All contestants must report in No Later Than 7:45 a.m., Friday, June 13**, to Fox Valley Technical College for instructions on driving requirements. Actual driving phase will start after the orientation and drive-through. Contestants must stay on property until called to start the competition.

**ANY DRIVER WHO KNOWINGLY ACCEPTS SIGNALS FROM SPECTATORS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED.**

**In all driving events, bus doors must be kept closed unless rules and regulations of the 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 improperly opened during operation of the vehicle. No drink or food will be allowed on the bus. A rider will be on each bus to time the event, provide direction to each course event, and assist with any questions.**

**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. Proper driving position is being firmly in the seat with feet firmly on floor or on controls. A contestant will not be permitted to put his/her head out of**

the bus window. Seatbelt must be worn and snugly fastened during the competition. Demerits will be deducted at the beginning of the driving course if the belt is not properly fastened; headlights are not on; inappropriate appearance such as flip-flop sandals; cut-off jeans, etc.

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

**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 bus defects with anyone.** This could result in total disqualification.

The bubble of the tire is the part of the tire for measuring on parallel, curb-line, back-up, and tread of tire for controlled right turn. Location and size of course area will help determine 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 all scores are totaled. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. Awards will be presented to the top three contestants receiving the most points in the three classes. **Additionally, winners will be recognized at the WSBA Annual Convention Awards Lunch, Wednesday, June 18, at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Each winner may bring one guest.**

**First-place winners' information from each class will be sent to the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) International Competition Committee should they choose to advance and compete nationally. WSBA provides up to \$500 in travel expense costs for the first place winners in each class. All other costs associated with the International Competition are the sole responsibility of the driver's organization.**

**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.

**DISQUALIFIERS** – If a driver has had a preventable incident/accident or moving violation after January 1, 2025, they are disqualified from being a contestant.

**Each contestant should very carefully read all the instructions in this booklet. These instructions explain what will be expected in each phase of the Safety Competition activities.**

## SUMMARY OF POINTS PER EVENT AND TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

EVENT	POINT VALUE
Written Examination (45 minutes)	100
Parking Stop Line	50
Offset Backing	50
Diminishing Clearance	50
Railroad Crossing	50
Double Offset	50
Right Turn	50
Simulated Bus Stop	50
Alley Dock Backing	50
Parallel Parking	50
Roadside Stop	50
Vehicle Inspection (10 minutes)	100
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>700</b>

## **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 because 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 of 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.**

**SCORING:** For each correct answer the contestant is awarded (2) points. All questions were compiled from WI DOT publications:

- Wisconsin Driver's Manual, WIDOT
- Wisconsin Consolidated Statutes, Trans 300
- Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License Manual

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

## **PARKING STOP LINE**

### **MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:** To make a complete stop, as close to, without going over, the stop line.

**INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING:** A **stop line**, six feet (6') long, will be established at the end of a straight line. The contestant will be expected to bring the bus to a complete stop as close to the stop line as possible. **Only one stop allowed.** The contestant will **sound the horn after the stop is made and the vehicle has been placed in neutral gear and the park brake set.** Measurement will be taken from the front center bumper. Demerits will be given for more than one stop. 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 stop.

## **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. Layout will be as follows:

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

**SCORING:** 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. Drivers will be checked on use of correct lights, mirrors, stopping bus, opening 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.

## **SIMULATED BUS STOP**

### **MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:** The event simulates loading students.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** A line will represent the edge of the roadway loading area. For loading passengers, the contestant will pull in to the loading area. The contestant will utilize the yellow warning lights (100 feet) prior to entering the loading zone. The contestant will then use the red crossover lights and stop arm when stopped to

simulate loading students. The contestant must stop at least 10 feet back from the student, but not more than 15 feet and out at least 6 feet away from student. During the maneuver the contestant will be judged for mirror use before and after the stop, proper use of lights, smooth stopping, lane position while stopped, transmission in neutral before door is opened.

## **RIGHT TURN**

### **MAXIMUMSCORE - 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:** The event is a right-hand turn at a street intersection and determines a driver's proficiency in judging the distance and handling of a bus.

**INSTRUCTIONS & SCORING:** Fifty (50) demerits shall be charged if the driver fails to activate the right turn signal. 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. 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 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.

## **DIMINISHING CLEARANCE**

### **MAXIMUMSCORE – 50 points**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS:** For 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 the lane in a smooth and continuous manner without touching any of the marker standards. Demerits are given for jerky, uneven movement, stopping forward motion, touching or striking flag tips, or backing.

## **STRAIGHT LINE**

### **MAXIMUMSCORE - 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:** Properly demonstrate a straight-line forward movement without hitting markers.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The wheels of the bus must travel the path without striking or moving the markers with any wheel. The distance between the markers is the width of the dual wheels plus three inches (3"), the bubble of the tire is the tire. The total distance of the event depends on the amount of space available. To determine the driver's ability to maneuver the wheels of the school bus over a straight path of given width. The bus must be operated in a continuous forward motion.

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

## **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. The Offset Alley is set up to determine the contestant's ability to drive the bus forward through ONE offset lane, with a minimum of hesitation and without touching barriers.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** **This is a timed 1.5 minute event.** Time starts when the front bumper enters the first set of barricades and ends when the rear bumper exits the last set of barricades. This event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to handle the bus under actual or simulated driving conditions.

**SCORING:** Five (5) demerits will be marked for each instance of stopping the forward motion of the bus while proceeding through the offset alley. Ten (10) demerits are given for each marker touched by the bus. Fifty (50) demerits will be marked for opening the door while the bus is in motion.

## **BACK UP STALL**

### **MAXIMUM SCORE – 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF EVENT:** Back the bus into the stall and stop within the 3-foot box.

**INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING:** **The approach to the backup stall will be made from the left side only.** A **three-minute time limit** starts when the front bumper passes the first upright standard. The bus must be parked in the box with the parking brake set and horn sounded with the three-minute limit. **One backup is permitted before demerits are charged for excessive backing.** Depth perception is tested by penalizing the driver for backing up too close to the rear barrier or parking the bus too far from the rear barrier, or not having the bus centered in the stall (front and rear). To evaluate the driver's ability to back the bus into a stall the width of the bus plus two (2) feet into which the driver must back their bus into without touching the upright standards and without crossing over the limit lines.

## **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 barriers** placed at both ends of the parking area, **without touching the curb line and parked within 18 inches of the curb line.** 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. When the bus is parked in the box with the parking brake set, sound the horn to alert the judge you are ready for measurement. On conventional buses front measurement will be taken in front of the service door. On transit buses the front measurement will be taken at the front wheels.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** A measurement will be made to determine how close the bus is parked to the curb line and will be charged demerits if over 12 inches from the curb line. 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 to park the bus and sound the horn for measuring.**

**SCORING:** Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and exits a stall, whether or not the bus touches any barrier or curb line, keeping the door closed, and activating signals.

**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 the first instance of touching the curb with the tire.

**PULLING OUT:** Demerits will be charged for failure to use directional signal and failure to cancel signal.

## **ROADSIDE STOP/START**

**MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points**

**PURPOSE OF THE EVENT:** Pulling over to the right side of the road as though something on the inside of the bus needs to be addressed.

**INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING:** The event will simulate a roadside pullover with limited length between cones. The roadside area will be marked by barriers which will be spaced 2 times the length of the bus. The contestant must pull into the area and pull out without backing up.

**The contestant will be judged on the proper use mirrors, right turn signal, and hazards when pulling in and mirrors, turn off hazards, and left turn signal when pulling out.** The contestant will be scored at both rear tire and service door entry on the farthest away from the curb line. A measure will be made from the curb line at the front & rear tires and the furthest distance is used for scoring. **The contestant must turn on the hazards, place the bus in Neutral or Park, apply park brake and sound the horn.**

## **VEHICLE INSPECTION**

**MAXIMUM SCORE - 100 points**

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

**INSTRUCTIONS AND SCORING:** This test is a judgment of the driver's ability to make complete physical inspection of the bus, **excluding starting the bus**. This includes checking under the hood, the general condition of the bus interior and exterior.

A time limit of NINE (9) minutes will be allowed for each contestant. If any reasonable assistance is needed when 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** of the items they feel are defective. There are **five (5) defects** on the vehicle that should be discovered by the driver on the daily check. If the driver points out an item that is not a defect, it will be added to the scoring as '0'. **The driver will not be informed if the item is a correct defect, they must simply point out 5 items.** Unless instructed otherwise, the vehicle is not to be started. Judge will inform contestant when "one minute is left."

---

## **SCHOOL BUS SPECS:**

**TYPE C - CONVENTIONAL**  
Various Years and Makes  
# passengers (capacity): 74

**TYPE D - TRANSIT**  
Various Years and Makes  
# passengers (capacity): 72

**TYPE A – SMALL BUS**  
Various Years and Makes  
# passengers (capacity): 29



## **SCHEDULE**

*All events take place at Fox Valley Technical College Transportation Center*

### **THURSDAY, JUNE 12**

<b>4:30 – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Course setup</b>
<b>6:30 – 7:00</b>	<b>Early Check-In for Drivers – FVTC Transportation Center, Room T146</b>
<b>7:00 – 8:00</b>	<b>Driver orientation and course with early registrants/bus riders/judges</b>

### **FRIDAY, JUNE 13**

<b>6:30 – 7:45 am</b>	<b>Registration at FVTC, Room T146</b>
<b>7:00</b>	<b>Judges &amp; volunteers orientation meeting, Room T144</b>
<b>7:30</b>	<b>Judges &amp; volunteers course drive-through</b>
<b>8:00</b>	<b>Drivers orientation meeting, Room T144</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Drivers course drive-through</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Competition begins</b>
<b>11:30 – 1:00</b>	<b>Food truck on-site for self-serve lunch (<b>cash only</b>)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Competition Awards presented with photos</b>

**Safe travels home! Thank you for supporting the WSBA Safety Competition!**



## Area Lodging/Camping Options *(This list is not exclusive)*

<b>Wingate by Wyndham Appleton</b> 1565 N Federated Dr, Appleton 54913 Wyndhamhotels.com P: 920.560.3000	<b>Comfort Suites Appleton Airport</b> 3809 W Wisconsin Ave, Appleton 54914 Choicehotels.com P: 920.730.3800
<b>Baymont by Wyndham</b> 3924 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 Wyndhamhotels.com P: 920.243.6448	<b>Hampton Inn Appleton – Fox River</b> 350 N Fox River Dr, Appleton 54913 Hamtoninn3.hilton.com P: 920.954.9211
<b>AmericInn by Wyndham Appleton</b> 132 N Mall Dr, Appleton 54913 Wyndhamhotels.com P: 920.954.0202	<b>Country Inn &amp; Suites by Radisson</b> 355 N Fox River Dr, Appleton 54913 Countryinns.com P: 920.830.3240
<b>Four Points by Sheraton</b> 300 N Mall Dr, Appleton 54913 marriott.com P: 920.257.4111	<b>Microtel Inn &amp; Suites by Wyndham</b> 321 N Metro Dr, Appleton 54914 Wyndhamhotels.com P: 920.997.3121
<b>Residence Inn by Marriott</b> 310 N Metro Dr, Appleton 54913 Marriott.com P: 920.954.0570	<b>Candlewood Suites</b> 4525 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 lhg.com P: 920.739.8000
<b>LaQuinta Inn &amp; Suites</b> 3800 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 laquintaappletoncollegeave.com P: 920.734.7777	<b>Clarion Inn</b> 3033 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 P: 920.731.4141
<b>Quality Inn</b> 3623 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 Choicehotels.com P: 920.730.5271	<b>Holiday Inn</b> 1565 Casaloma Dr, Appleton 54913 lhg.com P: 920.441.0206
<b>Home2 Suites by Hilton</b> 5155 W Grande Market Dr, Grand Chute, 54913 Hilton.com P: 855.680.3239	<b>Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites</b> 130 S Nicolet, Appleton 54913 Marriott.com P: 920.939.8181
<b>Huckleberry Acres Campgrounds</b> E9005 Huckleberry Rd, New London 54961 P: 920.982.4628	<b>Apple Creek Campground</b> N3831 County Rd U, DePere 54115 Applecreekcamping.com P: 920.532.4386
<b>Hilton Appleton Paper Valley</b> 333 W College Ave, Appleton 54914 Hilton.com P: 920.733.8000	