

45th Annual

New Jersey Transportation Professionals Safety Training and Applied Skills



Division of Highway
Traffic & Safety

Saturday, May 6, 2017
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor
Jackson, New Jersey

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER NEW JERSEY SAFETY COMPETITION 2016 ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The School Bus Driver New Jersey Safety Competition will be limited to a maximum of 150, 54-passenger, and 50 van entries. There are no limitations on the number of contestants from each contractor or school district if all other entrance requirements are met.**
- 2. In order to qualify for competition a driver must hold a valid Commercial Drivers License (CDL) w/P and S endorsements and present license at time of registration. In addition, he/she must not have had a preventable school bus accident (as defined by the National Safety Council Safe Driver Award Program) between the dates May 1, 2016 and May 5, 2017. Driver must also submit a current NJ Driver Abstract showing no point or preventable accidents for 15/16 school year.**
- 3. The New Jersey State competition will have school bus transit (54 passenger), conventional school bus (54 passenger), and van (16 passenger) class events. A contestant may enter only one class.**
- 4. All contestants must report to the registration desk at the parking lot at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Jackson, New Jersey between 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Walk-thru will take place promptly at 8:00. Field competition and testing will begin at 9:00.**
- 5. The registration fee for each contestant is \$60.00. This fee must accompany the application form. No entrance fee will be refunded.**

REGULATIONS

1. Contestants are to report to the registration area in the Great Adventure – Hurricane Harbor Parking lot between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2017, for registration. Late arrival may disqualify a contestant. Contestants are to report by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2017, to the contest area for a ride thru.
2. Contestants will be required to appear ½ hour prior to start time in the driver preparation area.
3. Contest rules shall apply, even though they may differ from the rules and regulations that the driver normally operates under.
4. Contestants should operate the bus under the hypothetical assumption that elementary students are riding as passenger on the bus from the time the driver leaves the starting line and the driver must conduct him/herself accordingly. In all events, the doors must remain closed unless the rules of an event require the door to be opened. **The driver may NOT discuss their score or performance with ANY judge while participating on course.**
5. Contestants will drive in the order they are listed, posted at the registration table. If a contestant is not available at the time they are scheduled to drive, they may be disqualified.
6. The following may result in disqualification of the contestant:
 - Any misconduct on the part of any participant or spectator such as the following:
 - * Unprofessional behavior
 - * Speeding and/or unsafe driving or Rule violation
 - * Use of drugs or alcohol during or immediately prior to the competition
 - * Collision with any object deemed not part of Skills Course (eg. Tree, other Motor Vehicle, SFGA signage, etc...)
 - Any contestant who knowingly accepts signals from anyone may be automatically disqualified.
 - Any special markings of any kind found on a bus or other object that could be used to aid a contestant in any event will disqualify that driver and any other contestant using that bus prior to discovery of the markings.
 - Failure to maintain proper driving position, (i.e., firmly in the driver's seat, hand on the wheel, etc.).

- A contestant will not be allowed to put his/her head out the window.
- Modification of the driver's seat in any way, other than the manufacturer's standards that could aid the driver in any way will disqualify the driver and may disqualify any other driver prior to discovery.
- Any bus used for competition shall have only mirrors that are normally used during the normal daily route. Mirrors can only be adjusted to provide the driver vision that would be normally required for safely operating the vehicle and getting the maximum field of vision. No mirror adjustments will be made to see the ground only.
- **Failure to properly wear a seat belt during the ENTIRE competition will result in 100 demerits.**
- No smoking, eating, or drinking will be allowed while in competition.

Failure to follow any of these rules will result in the contestant being disqualified from the event during which the violation occurred.

7. Each contestant will be given adequate time (maximum of 6 minutes) to familiarize him/herself with the instrumentation and controls of the bus prior to the operation of the vehicle to be driven in the competition. Contestants are to inform the starting judge when they are ready to begin the driving part of the competition.
8. The competition vehicle may have the rear windows covered.
9. The contestant will **NOT** be timed. The contestants' accumulated score for certain events will be used to determine ranking in case of a tie in the score.
10. No changes in the course will occur after the competition starts. However, the Chief Judge may determine to disqualify any event during competition and apply the point value equally to all contestants.
11. Contestants may contact a representative of the competition at the finish line if they feel that an interference or problem affected their competition. If interference is identified and confirmed, and the competitor's score in the event mentioned was affected, a determination will be made as to whether a re-run for that event will be allowed. If a re-run is granted, an official of the competition shall escort the competitor directly to the event involved. The competitor must state the concern immediately after competition and the determination by competition officials will be deemed final. Once scores have been finalized and winners announced, no grievance or changes in the scores will occur.
12. Winners will be announced only at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening at the Garden of Eden after the event. No scores will be provided prior to that time.

Summary score sheets will be provided to each competitor after the awards presentation.

- 13. NJSTS will reimburse the First Place overall winner of the NJ Roadeo for their travel, lodging and a meal allowance to attend the International School Bus Drivers Roadeo. The reimbursement is for the winner only, not for other persons traveling with the Contestant. All receipts are to be turned into the President of NJSTS upon return from the International Roadeo.**

COMPETITION EVENTS

Each of the following sections includes the title of the event, the purpose of the event, a description of the course, special instructions, and the scoring and judging procedures. The better the contestants understand this information, the more successful they are likely to be in competition. The sequence of events in this publication is not necessarily the sequence of events in the State Competition; nor will all the following events necessarily be included.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Total Possible Score: 120 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: A school bus driver must become thoroughly familiar with and faithfully observe many laws, rules and regulations. These laws, rules and regulations were established as a result of years of study and experience. Contestants for the State Competition are encouraged to study New Jersey State rules, regulations and state laws for school bus drivers. They should also review high school education textbooks for general rules and the road information, and also CDL manuals.

INSTRUCTIONS:

The test includes 30 multiple-choice questions. These questions are based upon publications mentioned above and common driver knowledge. Drivers should read the questions carefully and select the best answer.

Example:

- D 1. A stop sign means:
- a. Slow down to at least 10 mph
 - b. Slow down to at least 5 mph
 - c. Proceed cautiously if there is no traffic within 100 yards
 - d. Come to a complete stop

SCORING: A time limit of 30 minutes has been established for the written test. Each test question answered incorrectly or not completed, will result in four (4) demerits for the written examination.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Maximum Score: 25 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: A school bus driver is to be of competent character to handle the authority of student passengers and knowledgeable of the driving rules and regulations of the State of New Jersey.

VEHICLE INSPECTION TEST

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: A school bus driver by law is required to conduct a daily physical inspection of the bus before transporting pupils. A school bus found to be unsafe should not be used for the transportation of pupils until such defects are corrected. A vehicle inspection should be planned and conducted in a systematic and logical manner to insure that all defects are found and noted. The purpose of this test is to evaluate the contestant's knowledge of vehicle inspection requirements.

INSTRUCTIONS: The test will be a physical examination of the vehicle's pre-/post trip inspection regulations and brake system requirements.

This test will evaluate the contestant's knowledge of laws regulating pre-/post-trip inspection as well as the contestant's knowledge of brake systems. The test will additionally check the contestant's knowledge of "why we check certain things."

SCORING: A time limit of 5 minutes has been established for the vehicle inspection test. Each "defect" undiscovered would result in ten (10) demerits for each mistake on the vehicle inspection test.

PREPARATION TO DRIVE

The driver should adjust the seat and mirrors and become familiar with the equipment before starting the course. ***The seat belt will be worn at all times during the contest.*** The Chief Starter for the competition will allow up to a maximum of six (6) minutes for the contestant to become familiar with the vehicle. There will be no practice on the actual course during the event.

RANKING

Time will **NOT** be kept on events.

The subtotal of all on course events will be used to determine ranking in the case of tie scoring. The Right Turn and Straight Line score sum will be used to determine ranking in the case of tie scoring after the above method produces no difference in ranking.

The Alley Dock and Special Event score sum will be used to determine ranking in the case of tie scoring after the above method produces no difference in ranking.

COURSE SET-UP

In setting up the course the staff reserves the right to use a brightly colored rope in place of tape for the various events. The course will be measured and set to accommodate the three classes of competition. All competitors and spectators are asked to remain behind the safety rope during the competition for your own protection.

OFFSET ALLEY TEST

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE TEST: This event is designed to evaluate a driver's ability to handle the bus under actual and simulated driving conditions. An offset alley is set up to determine the contestant's ability to drive his/her bus through the offset lanes with a minimum of hesitation and without touching the barriers or flag tips. The offset may be a right or left offset, which will be determined by the Competition Director.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL TRANSIT & CONVENTIONAL BUSES OVER 29 FEET IN LENGTH: Two sets of parallel barriers, 10 feet long are set up with tips the width of the bus to the nearest foot plus two feet apart. The right barrier flag tips of the first set are placed in a direct line with the left barrier flag tips of the second set (the offset barriers), or vice versa. The distance between the two sets of barriers (from the end of the first set to the beginning of the second set) will be the length of the bus plus three feet for buses over 29 feet long.

The direction of the offset (left or right) will be determined on the day of the competition.

SCORING: The following are demerits on this event.

50 demerits	Any backing during the event
50 demerits	Touching the barriers (not flag tips)
50 demerits	Failure to complete the event
50 demerits	Failure to keep door closed
10 demerits	Each instance of stopping the forward motion of the bus

The following demerits will be charged for each instance of touching any of the flag tips:

1 st instance	10 demerits
2 nd instance	10 demerits
3 rd instance	10 demerits
4 th instance	20 demerits

RAILROAD CROSSING & CLEARANCE TEST

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: The railroad crossing represents one of the greatest hazards insofar as mass casualties or fatalities are concerned. This test evaluates the driver's degree of care and knowledge of laws, rules and regulations when required to operate a school bus across railroad tracks. The test also evaluates the driver's ability to determine the clearance of the tracks with the back of their vehicle.

INSTRUCTIONS: A simulated railroad crossing is laid out as follows:

1. A roadway crossing one parallel set of tracks.
2. A railroad crossing sign in the proper position at the right side of the roadway.
3. Approach the simulated railroad crossing; activate hazard lamps; stay to right of roadway; stop no closer than 15 feet and no farther than 50 feet from the nearest rail; place transmission in Park or Neutral; set parking brake; open door and driver's window to look and listen for approaching train; sound horn for measurement; proceed when clear.

SCORING: Drivers are judged from the time they approach the crossing. They will be checked on use of directional signals and mirrors, stopping the bus, opening the door and window, checking the tracks, driving across the railroad tracks, etc.

The following demerits in this event are:

50 demerits Failure to complete the event

25 demerits Stops closer than 15 feet from tracks
Failure to check both up and down tracks
Improper use of 8 Light School Bus Flashers

10 demerits Failure to set trans in Park or Neutral
Stops further than 50 feet from tracks
Failure to keep bus in same gear while crossing tracks
Failure to open door
Failure to open window, shut off all noisy equipment
Improper use of other signals

5 demerits Failure to check left outside mirror
Failure to check right outside mirror
Failure to check inside rearview mirror
Failure to cancel signals

STRAIGHT LINE

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: To determine the driver's ability to maneuver the right wheels of a school bus over a straight path of given width.

INSTRUCTIONS: The right wheels of the bus must travel the indicated path without striking or moving the markers with any wheel. The bus must be operated in a continuous forward motion. The distance between the markers is the width of duals plus three (3) inches.

SCORING: Points are deducted for the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 50 demerits | Failure to complete the event
Failure to have door closed during event |
| 10 demerits | Drives either side of pair of markers
(maximum of 50 points) |
| 5 demerits | Each instance where wheel touches or knocks marker off
(maximum of 50 pts) |
| 4 demerits | For each instance of stopping forward motion of bus
(maximum of 20 demerits) |
| 2 demerits | For each instance of jerky or uneven movement of bus
(maximum of 10 demerits) |

DIMINISHING CLEARANCE TEST

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: In this test, the contestant is required to drive the bus in a straight line with diminishing clearances, while driving in a smooth and continuous manner.

INSTRUCTIONS: For the purpose of conducting this test, five pairs of parallel traffic cones are set up. Each pair of cones, however, is parallel to the next. The distance between each pair of standards is 25 feet. The width of each pair varies, as follows:

First pair of standards	Width of bus plus 10 inches
Second pair of standards	Width of bus plus 8 inches
Third pair of standards	Width of bus plus 6 inches
Fourth pair of standards	Width of bus plus 4 inches
Fifth pair of standards	Width of bus plus 2 inches

Note: The measurement is from cone edge to cone edge. The alley is set up to diminish on both sides.

SCORING: Contestants will be scored on the following:

50 demerits	Knocking cone over with the bus Failure to complete the event Backing bus during this event
10 demerits	Each instance of bus touching cone (maximum of 50 demerits)
4 demerits	Each instance of stopping forward motion of bus (maximum of 20 demerits)
2 demerits	Each instance of jerky or uneven movement (maximum of 10 demerits)

BACK UP ALLEY TEST

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE: This test is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to back the bus into a stall. A stall the width of the bus plus two feet is provided into which the driver must back their bus without touching the upright standard in the rear of the vehicle. Penalizing the driver for backing too close to the rear barrier, or not having the bus centered in the stall tests depth perception. (Rear windows will be covered)

INSTRUCTIONS: Parallel yellow ropes or lines on the ground the width of the bus plus two feet identify each stall. Each front corner of the stall will be marked by upright standards that will not interfere with the backing of the bus. In order to limit the drivers maneuvering room, a front wheel limitation line will be placed on the ground perpendicular to the stall parallel marker lines. The distance from the front stall standards to the wheel limitation line will be as follows:

Transit	Length of bus plus 1 foot
Conventional & Small Bus	Length of bus plus 4 feet

Each contestant will be permitted only one back up before demerits are charged for excessive backing. Upon completion of this event the bus should be parked as nearly in the center of the stall as possible (front and rear of bus). After measurements are completed, the bus will exit the stall.

SCORING: The following are demerits for this event:

50 demerits	Failure to keep door closed during event
	Tire touches the wheel limitation line
	Touching the rear barrier
	Failure to park the bus and sound the horn with one beep
	Failure to pull out between the front upright standards
	Bus parked more than 30 inches from rear barrier
40 demerits	Bus parked between 24 and 30 inches from rear barrier
30 demerits	Bus parked between 18 and 24 inches from rear barrier
20 demerits	Bus parked between 12 and 18 inches from rear barrier
10 demerits	Bus parked between 6 and 12 inches from rear barrier
	Each pull up after first free pull up
0 demerits	Bus parked between 0 and 6 inches from rear barrier

RIGHT TURN EVENT

Maximum score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: The test is designed to determine the driver's ability to properly prepare for and execute a right hand turn without touching the curb or excessively encroaching on the adjacent traffic lanes.

INSTRUCTIONS: A lane will be provided in which the driver will make the approach to the corner. The lane is marked on the right with a curb line 50 feet long or more. The driver will approach the corner giving the correct directional signal at least 100 feet from the turn as required by law. The contestant shall continue to steer the bus in a straight line until ready to execute the right turn. The point at which the turn begins is determined by the driver's ability to judge a predetermined relationship with the corner. The bus may not be stopped during this event. The turn must be executed without touching the curb line. The arc will be determined on the day of the competition with a minimum of 17 feet.

SCORING: Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and recovers from the turn.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 50 demerits | If any tire touches the curb at any time
Failure to keep door closed during event
Failure to complete event
For backing the bus |
| 25 demerits | Failure to activate the right directional signal at least 100 ft. |
| 10 demerits | Each instance of stopping during event (max 50 points) |
| 5 demerits | Failure to cancel right directional signal |

The right rear outside tire should pass through the scoring template at the beginning and completion of the arc of the turn. Measurement will be taken from the curb side of each template and the following demerits shall be charged depending on the travel path of the tire.

ENTERING TURN:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Tire travels over scoring template: | |
| Each color of template revealed | 10 demerits |
| All colors of template revealed | 50 demerits |

RECOVERING FROM THE TURN:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Tire travels over scoring template: | |
| Each color of template revealed | 10 demerits |
| All colors of template revealed | 50 demerits |

CURB LINE PARKING

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: This event is designed to evaluate the contestant's ability to pull up to a simulated curb line without touching the barriers placed at both ends of the parking area, without touching the curb, and place the vehicle within 6 inches of the curb. It is also designed to judge the contestant's ability to drive the bus out of the curb line area without touching the barriers or the curb. Measurement will be taken at the passenger door on all vehicles.

INSTRUCTIONS: A section of rope or fire hose will represent the curb. Two barriers will be set at right angles to the curb line, extending out eight feet from the curb. The distance between the barriers will be:

For Transits and Conventionals the curb line will be 100 feet.

For Small buses, the curb line will be 75 feet.

A measurement will be made to determine how close the bus is parked to the curb line, and for determining the number of demerits to be charged. The contestant must have the bus parked and sound the horn one beep within the three minute limit for measurement. There is **NO BACKING ALLOWED**.

SCORING: Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and exits a stall.

50 demerits:	Failure to park the bus and sound the horn one beep
	Bus touching front or rear barrier at any time.
	Bus touching curb line (front or rear tire at any time)
	More than 14" from curb
40 demerits	14" to 12" from curb
30 demerits	12" to 10" from curb
20 demerits	10" to 8" from curb
10 demerits	8" to 6" from curb
	Each instance of backing
	Failure to use directional signal

ELEMENTARY STUDENT LOADING

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: Loading and unloading can be one of the most life threatening maneuvers a school bus driver performs. This test is designed to evaluate the driver's alertness to the loading of elementary passengers, and to determine their ability to remember and perform several other important functions incidental to such loading. Such items include the proper use of directional signals, yellow warning lights, mirrors, the red crossover lights and the stop arm.

INSTRUCTIONS: For loading the elementary passengers the contestant will be judged on the proper technique used. Contestants will be judged for mirror use before and after the stop, proper activation of the school bus warning lights (100 ft. before stop), use of the red cross-over lights, smooth stopping, lane position while stopped, transmission in neutral, and the parking brake set before door is opened.

The contestant will stop no closer than 10 feet from the student in the loading zone (distance between student and side of bus).

SCORING: scoring demerits for the student loading are as follows:

- 25 Demerits** Failure to perform proper mirror checks
(5 point mirror check)
Failure to activate yellow warning lights
Failure to complete event
Backing the bus
Keep the door closed while in motion
Failure to perform proper mirror check before departing
Failure to deactivate red crossover lights
Failure to place bus in appropriate gear
Failure to set parking brake
- 10 Demerits** Door open before stop
Bus stopped closer than 10 feet from student
(student and side of bus)
Started movement before closing door

STOP LINE TEST

Maximum score: 30 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: This test determines the contestant's depth perception, ability to use mirrors and ability to bring the bus to a smooth, complete stop.

INSTRUCTIONS: A stop line eight feet long is established. The contestant should bring the bus to a complete stop as close to the stop line as possible. Only one stop will be allowed. The contestant will sound the horn once upon completing the stopping maneuver. The Stop Line Event may be in sequence with the Railroad Crossing Event.

Scoring: Measurement for scoring the stop line will be taken from the front surface of the bumper to edge of the line closest to the bus. Measurement will be taken any place on the bumper that is the closest to the stop line. The bus must stop 2 inches or less from the stop line to avoid demerits being given.

0 demerits	0" to 2"
3 demerits	over 2" to 4"
6 demerits	over 4" to 6"
9 demerits	over 6" to 8"
12 demerits	over 8" to 10"
15 demerits	over 10" to 12"
18 demerits	over 12" to 14"
21 demerits	over 14" to 16"
24 demerits	over 16" to 18"
27 demerits	over 18" to 20"
30 demerits	over 20"
30 demerits	Stops with bumper beyond <u>Stop Line</u>
30 demerits	Failure to complete event
30 demerits	Backing during event
30 demerits	Failure to keep door closed during event

SPECIAL SURPRISE EVENT

Maximum Score: 50 points

PURPOSE OF TEST: The surprise event will test the ability of the contestant to react to a surprise situation.

INSTRUCTIONS: The event will be determined by the Competition Director and will be announced the morning of the competition.

SCORING: Scoring for the event will be provided at the time that the event is announced during the walk-through procedure on the morning of the competition.

SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE POINTS PER EVENT

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Written Examination	120
Personal Interview & Appearance	25
Vehicle Inspection	50
Offset Alley	50
Railroad Crossing & Clearance	50
Straight Line	50
Diminishing Clearance	50
Back Up Alley	50
Right Turn Event	50
Curb Line	50
Elementary Student Loading	50
Stop Line	30
Special Surprise Event	50
	<hr/>
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	675