2026-2027 NEW JERSEY & NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

Contest Theme:

Safe Miles = Big Smiles

Who May Enter

Each public, parochial, and private school may submit posters for each division to the State Poster Contest.
The divisions are:

Division # 1-----Grades K-2
Division # 2-----Grades 3-5
Division # 3-----Grades 6-8
Division # 4-----Special Education (Grades K-12)
Division # 5-----CAD (Computer Aided Drawing)*

*(*division 5 entries are eligible for competition within those respective divisions, but are not eligible to be the National Overall Contest Winner)*

State Contest Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each division, as follows:

1st Place--------- $100 gift card
2nd Place-------- $75 gift card
3rd Place---------$50 gift card

The school of the 1st place poster winners in each division will receive a $100 gift card (this can be awarded to a PTA or other school-related group upon committee approval)**.**

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW ALL THE POSTER RULES LISTED!
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALL POSTER RULES WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION

Poster Specifications

- Completed poster size must be 11" x 17" or 12" x 18". Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.
- Designs should be submitted on quality tag, poster illustration board or heavy paper. Construction paper may be used but winning entries must be mounted on quality tag poster. Lamination is not permitted, and will disqualify the poster.
- There is no limitation on the use and number of colors.
- There is no limitation on the type of media -- such as print, crayon, felt pen, etc. -- used on the poster design; however, wood, plastic, glass or metal should not be part of the poster. Collage materials should not be used. Glued on pieces will disqualify the poster.
- The poster design may incorporate freehand letters only. Stenciled, pre-printed, manufactured stick-on or press-on letters or tracings may not be used and will disqualify the poster. Lettering should be clearly legible, even if used as part of the poster design. Cut paper / stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stick-on stencils) are not permitted and will disqualify the poster.
- Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted materials (i.e. company name, logo, comic and/or television characters/titles), including stock artwork, meaning photographs or other images of common places, landmarks, nature, events or people; clipart, meaning anything from an existing collection of pictures or images that can be imported from or into the poster; and non-original raster graphics or vector graphics.
- Drawings must be original, correct in safety concept and the exclusive work of the student entering the contest in idea, design and execution. All artwork should be positive in approach, demonstrating only proper school bus safety behaviors.
- **At least a part of a yellow school bus must be present in the poster.**
- The theme (Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes) must be included in the poster design. Remember to display the theme on the poster as it is written above.
- There must be an entry blank (next page) securely fastened to the back of the poster, which includes the student's name, grade, age, teacher's name, email address, school name and school address. Please print clearly. **Do not place name, school, etc., on the front of the poster.** Display information on the back only.

- An art instructor or art teacher should supervise all work.

Poster Theme

Every poster and slogan must harmonize with the 2026-2027 poster contest theme:

Safe Miles = Big Smiles

Contestants must illustrate the above theme only. The theme on the poster must be exactly as shown above, to include all punctuation. Students may use creative lettering, capitalization, and punctuation as long as the theme's message remains clear and recognizable. Minor misuse of proper punctuation will not automatically disqualify a poster, provided the intended theme and school bus safety message are understandable. All words must be spelled correctly.

When Can Posters Be Drawn?

Posters can be drawn anytime between November 2, 2026 - April 5, 2027.
All posters must be received by state directors by April 16, 2027.

Judging

The NJ School Bus Safety Poster Contest Committee will evaluate posters. Criteria for the selection of award-winning posters are:

Safety Impact - Relationship of the poster design to the school bus safety practices.
Originality - Originality of the poster and how the idea is expressed in the poster design.
Artistic Quality - Artwork and its execution.
Visual Impact - Visual impact of the poster design.

State winners will be notified by email in early May. All communication is through the school/teacher, not directly with parents. National winners will be notified by the NAPT over the summer.

Deadline Date

Completed poster designs must be **received by April 16, 2027**. All entries become property of The New Jersey Safety Poster Committee, and may not be returned to any person(s) claiming a right, title, or other interest in the poster Posters that have been used for any promotional purposes may not be submitted. Posters must be mailed flat. Remember to attach the completed entry form on the back of the poster.

Mail entries to:
STS of NJ
P.O. Box 66
Raritan, NJ 08869

The NJ Safety Poster Contest Committee has the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with all contest requirements.

All state entries become the property of the National School Bus Safety Week Committee and may not be returned. The right to modify any poster for reproduction is reserved by the NSBSW Committee.

National Contest Prizes

The 1st place winning poster in each category will be sent to the National contest.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each division, as follows:

1st Place and Overall winner----------$500
1st Place Winners of remaining 3 divisions------$250
2nd Place Winners of each 4 divisions ----------$100
3rd Place Winners of each 4 divisions ----------$50
1st Place Winner – CAD Division----------$50

Questions? Please email:

Marisa Broesder,
NJ School Bus Safety Poster Contest Chairperson
mbroesder@vtsd.com

Please complete and attach this form to the back of each poster in accordance with poster specifications noted in the contest rules. The below information is important and needed. Posters may be disqualified at the national level if the above label is not used for poster submission!

POSTER LABEL
LABEL FOR ENTRY - PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name _____

Grade _____ **Age** _____

School _____

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Email _____

School Phone Number _____

School Address

_____

City _____

State/Province _____ **Zip** _____

Student's Home Address

_____

City _____

State/Province _____ **Zip** _____ **Country** _____

☐ **Division #1** - Grades K-2

☐ **Division #2** - Grades 3-5

☐ **Division #3** - Grades 6-8

☐ **Division #4** - Special Education (Grades K - 12)

☐ **Division #5** - CAD (Computer Aided Drawing)

Do not place this information on the front of the poster.

Display on the back only!

All fields must be completed!

Please select prize payment preference which will be used for winning posters:

If my poster is selected as a winning poster, the prize check can be mailed to:

☐ Prize money mailed to home address ☐ Prize money mailed to school address