

For Immediate Release

Contact: Curt Macysyn, executive director
(703) 684-3200 ext. 700
CMacysyn@yellowbuses.org

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National School Transportation Association Announces Winners of the 51st Edition of the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition

AUSTIN, TX – On Sunday June 29, 2025, the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) honored several drivers who successfully competed in the 51st Edition of the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition (SBDISC) - presented by Beacon Mobility. The Driver's Awards Banquet was held at the event's host hotel – the Austin Marriott Downtown, where all 53 competitors took photographs with NSTA President Dan Kobussen and received a driver's recognition certificate and plaque denoting their participation in the competition.

On Saturday, June 28, drivers had to go through a Safety Competition orientation class, followed by a Knowledge (Witten) test. Today, the skills competition was held at the Hays CISD Transportation Facility in Uhland, TX, where contestants got behind the wheel of a school bus and completed a rigorous road course. Drivers competed in one of three bus categories: Small bus (Type A), Conventional (Type C), or transit (Type D).

This competition offers school bus drivers from across the United States and Canada the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and skills, allowing them to vie for an international title. To be eligible, drivers must compete and win or place in a state or provincial competition in their designated school bus category (small bus, conventional, or transit) within the past year. Drivers must also officially enter the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition in the same bus class that he or she won at the state, regional, or provincial level. Winners are determined by the bus driver having the highest score in the category that he or she competed in. Additionally, the Bill Loshbough Grand Champion Award was handed out for the first time to the driver who achieved the overall top score of the entire Safety Competition.

NSTA is pleased to announce the following winners, who were acknowledged on Sunday evening, June 29, 2025, at the NSTA Safety Competition Driver's Awards Banquet.

Small Bus (Type A):

First Place: Claudia Christen – Prairie Bus Lines – Alberta, Canada
Second Place: Kathleen Graham - Montgomery County Public Schools - Virginia
Third Place: Erika Gaines -Montgomery County Schools - Tennessee

Conventional Bus (Type C):

First Place: Betty Nelson - Dean Transportation - Michigan
Second Place: Philip Purvis, North East ISD - Texas
Third Place: Jered Winnestaffer - Community Bus Services - Groveport-Madison Schools - Ohio



Transit Bus (Type D):

First Place: Brian Rickmann - Beaverton School District - Oregon

Second Place: Danelle Adams - Roseville Joint Union High School District - California

Third Place: Doralie Cervantes - Cypress Fairbanks ISD - Texas

Bill Loshbough Grand Champion Award:

First Place: Brian Rickmann - Beaverton School District - Oregon

“We are pleased to host another edition of the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition, guided by the leadership of Bill Loshbough and Kevin Kilner. This respected event gives school bus drivers from across North America the chance to demonstrate their skills and knowledge while competing to be the best in their field. It also represents an opportunity for the school transportation community to come together in a spirited, yet supportive, environment that celebrates excellence and professionalism,” said NSTA President Dan Kobussen (Kobussen Buses – WI)

In 2023, NSTA proudly announced a valued partnership with Hays CISD, designating the site as the permanent host for the National School Transportation Association’s - School Bus Driver International Safety Competition. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to promoting excellence in school transportation and ensuring a consistent, well-equipped site for showcasing the skills and professionalism of school bus drivers from across North America.

“Transporting students in the yellow bus remains the safest way to get our students to school each day. The School Bus Driver International Safety Competition highlights the professionalism of our school bus drivers that combines a driving competition within an enjoyable atmosphere. This yearly event celebrates the cornerstone of pupil transportation – our drivers, who continue to inspire us every day. On behalf of NSTA, I want to extend our thanks to Hays CISD for their support, and we look forward to hosting our competition here next year,” said NSTA Executive Director, Curt Macysyn.

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About NSTA: The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, vehicle manufacturers, and vendors for 60 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.