

# 52nd Edition School Bus Driver International Safety Competition

## 2026 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**Purpose** - The purpose of the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition (SBDISC or Competition), sponsored by the National School Transportation Association (NSTA), is to showcase the best school bus drivers in North America to school administrators, teachers, parents, students, school boards, and the general public. States and Provinces are authorized to develop eligibility requirements that ensure their contestants meet this objective. The competition presents an opportunity to present the profession in a positive light in news reports and social media.

**Multistate competitions** - A State/Province holding a School Bus Driver Safety Competition may issue an invitation to one or more adjoining states to participate in their competition. Each State/Province participating will be eligible to enter drivers in the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition if they otherwise qualify under SBDISC eligibility requirements. The Multistate/Provincial competition must have a single competition that includes both the public and private sectors, if applicable. Each State or Province meeting these criteria must have no less than six (6) contestants competing in each school bus Class (D, C, A) (if offered).

### **DRIVER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (Please Read Carefully):**

1. *The SBDISC shall be limited to a maximum of 100 contestants based on date of entries unless the approved competition has reserved space before the date of the competition. Drivers who have been declared winners of a State/Provincial/Multistate competition, as well as NSTA member inclusion drivers, are eligible for participation in the International Competition if they meet the criteria outlined in Sections 2, 3 & 4. Keep in mind that the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition is conducted utilizing diesel powered vehicles, although State/Provincial/Multistate Competitions are free to utilize vehicles other than diesel powered ones as they see fit.*
2. *Each State/Provincial/Multistate Competition is allowed to have a maximum of three (3) contestants in each school bus class as follows:*
  - a. *Transit Class - Type D: Top 3 competitors by score, regardless of public or private designation, a total of three (3) drivers.*
  - b. *Conventional Class - Type C: Top 3 competitors by score regardless of public or private designation for a total of three (3) drivers*
  - c. *Small Bus Class - Type A: Top 3 competitors by score regardless of public or private designation for a total of three (3) drivers.*
  - d. *If any of the Classes (D, C, A) outlined above does not have a public or private designee in the top three, then the state/regional/provincial competition shall be eligible to send one (1) additional driver to compete in that specific driver class (D, C, A).*
3. *A driver may only enter one class of competition and/or one sector, public or private. For example, if a driver/contestant competes for a public or private sector company at the State/Provincial level and becomes eligible to advance to the SBDISC, they shall compete for the same public or private operator that they were employed at the time they qualified at the state level. If they change employers after the State/Provincial/Multistate Competition and prior to SBDISC, then they must notify NSTA as soon as possible and ensure the required registration fee is paid.*

4. *NSTA Member Inclusion Eligibility – NSTA members in good standing are eligible to send up to (2) drivers to the SBDISC without participation in a Safety Competition, and driver(s) shall hold a valid CDL with S and P endorsements and have driven primarily as a school bus driver within the past five (5) consecutive years. Drivers utilizing the Member Inclusion waiver competitors cannot participate or have participated in a current year State/Provincial/Multistate competition. NSTA Member Inclusion drivers must be registered for the competition no later than June 1, 2026, and driver substitution will only occur under extenuating circumstances.*
5. *State/Province/Multistate Competition Hosting Requirements – it is not required that state student transportation associations or their designees host a competition. Other reputable student transportation entities are eligible to host a competition, provided that the competition is advertised publicly and open to all registrants operating within the jurisdiction of the competition. Other reputable student transportation entities include, but are not limited to, School Districts, student transportation agencies, and student transportation service providers but shall not include transit agencies or motor coach only operators.*
6. *The State/Provincial/Multistate Competition must include a driving course component in the competition, and it is strongly suggested that the course align with the course layout set forth in this Handbook. A driver must compete in a Safety Competition event authorized by the NSTA Safety Competition Committee in order to be qualified to compete in the International Competition.*
7. *In States or Provinces where the public sector or private sector holds separate competitions, the three (3) highest scores in each competition (A, C, D) shall be eligible for participation in the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition.*
8. *In the case of an exclusive private or public competition, information must be provided that the competition was open to all private or public sector participants in the State or Province and properly advertised. If a State or Province has only a public sector competition, they will be limited to a maximum of nine (9) public sector contestants, or three for each of the A, C, D school bus classes. The same criteria would apply to private sector-only competitions.*
9. *In order for a contestant to be accepted, NSTA must be provided information of the date, location, and a list by name, score and employer of the three highest scores in the competition. In cases where the three highest score come from one class (public or private) your highest ranked contestant in the non-represented class must be provided as well. In these cases, that competitor does not have to finish fourth overall, but rather they are the highest ranked competitor in the non-represented class. Drivers/contestants will be approved for competition once this information is received by NSTA. Keep in mind that competition documentation may be submitted by the authorizing person or entity host of the Safety Competition, and driver competitors can self-certify their application.*
10. *In order to qualify for participation in the Competition, a driver must hold a valid Commercial Driver License (CDL) with S and P endorsements and meet any other licensing and/or certification requirements for a school bus driver from the State or Province where he or she is employed. Drivers holding a “School Bus Only” CDL are eligible for participation.*
11. *No public or private entity winner will be eligible unless he/she meets the criteria for State/Multistate/Provincial Competition winner during the past year or is an NSTA Member Inclusion driver.*
12. *A contestant must enter the school bus class of competition in which he/she competed during the State/Provincial/Multistate Competition, and Member Inclusion participants must declare upon registration the Class (D, C, A) in which they will participate. After the registration process is completed, drivers will not be able to change their Competition Class.*

13. All contestants must report to the competition registration desk between 1:00 PM and 2:15 PM (CT) on Saturday, June 27, 2026. Contestant must report for orientation and testing by 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM (CT) on Saturday, June 27, 2026. All contestants must report by 7:00 a.m. on June 28, 2026, for the driving competition, and drivers are requested to take the shuttle bus to the Competition Site. Registration and testing must be completed prior to 7:00 AM (CT) on June 28, 2026, to compete. Registration and testing will be done at the Austin Marriott Downtown, unless contestants are otherwise instructed prior to the Competition.

14. The location of the driving competition and shuttles will be announced at the Competition contestant orientation on Saturday, June 27, 2026.

15. The registration fee for each contestant is \$175.00 (U.S. Currency). Please do not send your payment until your eligibility is confirmed. Payment is required prior to participating in the Safety Competition.

16. State/Provincial/Multistate Competitions scheduled after June 1, 2026, may reserve space for their future eligible contestants by notifying the NSTA office. The request must be in writing and request the number of spots to be reserved. The request cannot exceed the number of eligible contestants, with a maximum of nine (9), or in certain circumstances twelve (12). The date of the competition, and name, and the contact information of the State/Provincial/Multistate official contact must be provided. If these slots are not utilized, you must notify NSTA immediately. Failure to do so may make your local Competition ineligible for future participation.

17. THE DEADLINE for receiving competition winner applications by NSTA officials is June 22, 2026. Contestant applications should be sent to NSTA within two (2) days after the conclusion of the State/Provincial/Multistate Competition. This will help ensure that contestant applications are received by NSTA in advance of the application deadline.

18. Registration remains on a first-come, first-served basis, and once the competition reaches its driver limit, then drivers will be placed on a waiting list. In the case the competition utilizes a waiting list, drivers who are not paid-in-full may be removed, in order to accommodate "wait-list" drivers as deemed appropriate by the Safety Competition Committee.

### **NSTA Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 9843, Trenton, NJ 08650

**Overnight Deliveries:** 4573 South Broad St., Suite 200, Yardville, NJ 08620

**Telephone:** 703-684-3200

**General Email:** [Info@yellowbuses.org](mailto:Info@yellowbuses.org)