

46th ANNUAL
PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
SAFETY COMPETITION
June 20 & 21, 2025



Driver Rules, Regulations & Information

*****New Location*****

Bald Eagle High School

751 S Eagle Valley Rd, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Sponsored by



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:

1. To motivate reinforcement of learning and implement good practices involved in superior job performance as a school bus driver.
2. To recognize excellence and provide for demonstration of the skills and responsible performance of the demanding job of the school bus driver.
3. To develop public awareness of the skills and responsibilities involved in being a school bus driver.
4. To encourage communication between drivers to share awareness and experience.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 46th Annual State School Bus Driver Safety Competition will be held on Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, 2025, at the Bald Eagle High School in Bellefonte, PA. Ten (10) contestants from each Intermediate Unit (IU) can participate in the State competition based on the results of competitions held within/or by each IU in the last twelve (12) months. If more than ten (10) register within one Intermediate Unit, the Safety Competition Committee will determine the ten (10) contestants.

A \$50 registration fee per contestant includes the cost of the provided meal. Payment is to be remitted with the contestant's Application. Contestants will be responsible for their travel and lodging expenses. The written and driving tests will be conducted at Bald Eagle Area High School.

PROCEDURES

Registration for all contestants will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Friday, June 20, in the lobby of the Bald Eagle High School. Safety Competition orientation and written test will follow registration (see Schedule of Activities).

When registering, contestants will be assigned a number by random drawing. They are expected to drive in that order unless the judges rule otherwise.

LATE ARRIVAL WILL DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT!

When registering, each contestant will be required to show the following current documents:

- a. Class A, or B with P and S endorsements (L restriction removed)
- b. Current School Bus Driver Certificate (S endorsement card)
- c. Current Physical Card, with valid physical date

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING THE CORRECT DOCUMENTS. DRIVERS WHO DO NOT HAVE CURRENT CORRECT DOCUMENTS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. PLEASE HAVE YOUR SUPERVISOR CHECK YOUR CARDS BEFORE TRAVELING TO PENN STATE.

All contestants must report to The Bald Eagle High School parking lot by 6:45 a.m., Saturday, June 21, for instructions on driving skills requirements. The actual driving skill phase will start immediately thereafter. Contestants must stay on the property until called for competition.

Any driver who knowingly accepts signals from spectators will automatically be disqualified.

In all driving events, the bus door must remain closed unless rules and regulations of a particular Safety 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 whenever the door is opened during the vehicle's operation unless required for an event.

Each contestant must maintain a proper driving position except when Safety Competition rules and regulations require the contestant to leave the vehicle seat. The proper driving position is being firmly in the seat with feet firmly on the floor or on the controls. A contestant is not permitted to put his/her head out of the bus window. The driver's seat belt must be worn and snugly fastened during the competition. Demerits will be deducted from the total score if the seat belt is not properly secured.

These contest rules will apply, even though they may differ from the rules and regulations the driver normally follows.

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 Vehicle Inspection bus defects with each other or even with spectators. This could result in total disqualification.

The bubble of the tire is part of the tire for measuring on parallel, curb-line, back-up, and tread of the tire for the controlled right turn. The location and size of the course area will help determine the 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 lunch on Saturday, June 21, following the driving competition. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. Awards will be presented to the top ten contestants receiving the most points in that order in the conventional class. Awards will be presented to the first, second, and third-place IU teams. The IU teams shall consist of the top ten (10) drivers in that IU.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE—Only contestants may file a grievance during any portion of the contest. The Grievance Committee will review each grievance, and its 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.

This booklet contains information to prepare contestants for the State School Bus Driver Safety Competition. Each contestant should carefully read all the instructions in this booklet, which provides a general overview of what will be expected in each phase of the Safety Competition activities.

SUMMARY OF POINTS PER EVENT AND TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>POSSIBLE POINTS</u>	<u>2025 SCHOOL BUS SPECS</u>
Written Examination	100	
Controlled Right Turn	50	Model Profile: I.C CE Gen
Railroad Crossing	50	School Bus Year: 2025
School Bus Stop	50	Passenger Capacity: 72
Back-Up	50	Wheelbase: 276
Straight Line	50	Brake Type: AIR
Parallel Parking	50	Transmission Type: AUTOMATIC
Curb Line Park	50	
Offset Alley	50	
Diminishing Clearance	50	
Vehicle Inspection	50	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	600	

WRITTEN TEST

MAXIMUM SCORE – 100 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: A school bus driver must become familiar with many rules and regulations and faithfully observe them. These laws, rules, and regulations were established after years of study and experience. This test aims to determine the extent of the contestant's familiarity with these important guidelines for safe driving.

The contestant will receive a test booklet 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.

For each correct answer, the contestant is awarded (2) points. PennDOT compiled all questions from the following publications:

1. Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual, Penn DOT Publication #117
2. Pennsylvania Driver's Manual, PennDOT Publication #95
3. Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 75, Vehicle Code
4. Pennsylvania Commercial Driver's License Manual, Publication #223
5. Pennsylvania Transportation Code, Title 67

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

CONTROLLED RIGHT TURN

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event determines a driver's proficiency in judging the distance and handling a bus when making a right-hand turn at a street intersection. Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and recovers from the turn.

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. Everything required of a driver will be judged from the time the contestant approaches the crossing until they reach the other side of the crossing. The driver will be scored on using mirrors, stopping the bus, opening the door, checking traffic, driving across railroad tracks, etc. While most of the scoring in this test is based on violations of fixed laws and regulations, some are based on safe driving procedures.

SCHOOL BUS STOP

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: 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, complete stop while picking up or discharging students. The contestant will be expected to bring the bus to a complete stop as close to the stop line as possible and adjacent to the school bus stop sign. Inappropriate appearance would include, but not be limited to, flip-flops, sandals, cut-off jeans, "macho" tee shirts, etc.

BACK-UP

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to park the bus in a parking stall without touching upright standards, stall lines, or the rear barrier of the stall, demonstrating knowledge of the vehicle's length, width, and turning ability.

Each stall (to back into) is identified by parallel lines on the pavement ten feet (10') apart. Each front corner will be

marked by upright standards that will not interfere with the bus's backing, and the front mirror limitation line will be marked perpendicular to the parallel stall marker lines. The distance from the front stall standards to the limitation line will be no more than 50 feet.

STRAIGHT LINE

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

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

The bus's passenger-side wheels must travel the 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 depends on the width of the buses' tires. The total distance of the event depends on the amount of space available.

PARALLEL PARKING

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event evaluates the driver's ability to park the bus parallel to a curb and within inches of the curb without touching the barriers at both ends of the parking area. 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. Measurements will be taken at the rear duals, in front, or just behind the front service door (based on the vehicle model).

CURB LINE PARK

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event is designed to test the driver's skills in loading or unloading maneuvers that require pulling into a curb parking zone at a limited distance. The event will simulate a limited curb length between other parked vehicles. The loading area will be marked by barriers spaced 2 times the length of the bus plus 2' – 3'. The contestant must pull into the curb and pull out without backing up.

OFFSET ALLEY

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event evaluates the driver's ability to handle the bus under actual or simulated driving conditions. An offset alley is set up to determine the contestant's ability to drive the bus through two offset lanes with minimum hesitation and without touching barriers.

Two sets of parallel barriers are ten feet (10') apart. The right-hand barrier of the first set is placed in a direct line with the left-hand barrier of the second set. The distance between the two sets of barriers (from the end of the first set to the beginning of the second set) will be determined by the length of the bus used.

DIMINISHING CLEARANCE

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: In this event, the driver must drive the bus in a straight line with diminishing clearances and drive smoothly and continuously without touching standards.

To conduct 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: At the start of the event,

1. 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 must proceed through this lane smoothly and continuously without touching marker standards.

VEHICLE INSPECTION

MAXIMUM SCORE - 50 points

PURPOSE OF THE EVENT: This event evaluates the contestant's efficiency in conducting such a vehicle inspection. This test is divided into two (2) categories. The first evaluates the contestant's systematic inspection method, and the second judges the driver's ability to complete a physical inspection of the bus. This includes checking, for example, under the hood, the general condition of the bus interior, seats, first aid kit, mirrors, windshield wipers, emergency exit, entrance door, tires, and general exterior condition.

Each contestant will be allowed a time limit of five (5) minutes. If reasonable assistance is needed to check the bus, the judge will assist in a way that does not violate the spirit of the test.

Contestants will inform the judge verbally concerning the items they feel are defective. The driver should discover five (5) defects in the vehicle. Unless instructed otherwise, the vehicle is not to be started. The judge will inform the contestant when one minute remains for inspection

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 1

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned

**CONTROLLED
RIGHT TURN**

Judges check for the items listed below and report demerits to the recording Judge for scoring.
Both plate #1 and plate #2 are scored in this event

Driver fails to activate RIGHT turn signal (25 demerits) _____

If any tire touches curbs on turn (50 demerits) _____

Demerits plate #1 (entering turn)

Mark the one color farthest from the parallel line that is visible at the outside edge of the right rear tire.

- Yellow - 10 demerits
 - Green - 20 demerits
 - Blue - 30 demerits
 - Red - 40 demerits
 - Black - 50 demerits
- (demerits) _____

Demerits plate #2 (recovering from turn)

Mark the one color farthest from the parallel line that is visible at the outside edge of the right rear tire.

- Yellow - 10 demerits
 - Green - 20 demerits
 - Blue - 30 demerits
 - Red - 40 demerits
 - Black - 50 demerits
- (demerits) _____

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 2

RAILROAD CROSSING

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

Judge should split the event items listed below as their focus of concentration. All Judges should report demerits to the recording Judge for scoring.

- Failure to activate 4-way HAZARD lights (20 demerits) _____
- Opens door before bus is stopped (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to stop 15-50 feet from tracts (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to engage PARKING brake (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to put gear in NEUTRAL position (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to open door (50 demerits) _____
- School Bus 8-way lights are activated (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to open driver-side window (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to look left and right (twice) (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to close door before moving bus (50 demerits) _____
- Failure to CANCEL 4-way hazard lights (20 demerits) _____
- Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 3

SCHOOL BUS STOP

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

Judge should split the event items listed below as their focus of concentration. All Judges should report demerits to the recording Judge for scoring.

Failure to activate 8-way school bus warning lights (50 demerits) _____

Check each instance of bus being brought to a stop more than once.
(0) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5 demerits each) _____

Bus brought to final stop OVER stop line. (50 demerits) _____

Check for each two (2) inches bus is stopped SHORT of line.
(3 demerits per each 2 inches)

Total inches SHORT		
2" = 0 demerits	12" = 15 demerits	
4" = 3 demerits	14" = 18 demerits	
6" = 6 demerits	16" = 21 demerits	
8" = 9 demerits	18" = 24 demerits	
10" = 12 demerits	18"+=50 demerits.	(demerits) _____

Driver opens door at improper time (50 demerits) _____

Failure to put gear in NEUTRAL position (50 demerits) _____

Failure to engage PARKING brake. (50 demerits) _____

Seat belt NOT worn or IMPROPERLY worn (50 demerits) _____

Headlights not ON (30 demerits) _____

Unprofessional personal appearance (10 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 4

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

BACK-UP

Judges should position themselves so that all event boarders can be seen. Judge responsibilities must include timing and measuring the event, as well as watching for the demerit items listed below. All demerits should be relayed to a recording Judge for scoring.
THERE JS A THREE (3) MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON THIS EVENT.

Contestant No. _____

Bus (includes mirrors) goes over front or side limitation line (50 demerits) _____

Bus touches the front stall upright standard (50 demerits) _____

Tire touches the stall line (50 demerits) _____

Each instance of backing after the second back-up (6 demerits each) _____
(0)(0)(6)(12)(18)(24)(30)(36)(42) - maximum of 42

Driver does not APPLY PARKING BRAKE, PUT BUS IN NEUTRAL and SOUND HORN (50 demerits) _____

Driver does not complete event within 3 minutes time limit (50 demerits) _____
(time starts when front bumper crosses the backup entrance)

Bus parked more than 2" off center line, each 2" or (2 demerits each) _____
fraction thereof (2)(4)(6)(8)(10)(12)(14) - maximum of 14

Bus parked FORWARD one foot free zone, each 6" (10 demerits each) _____
or fraction thereof (10)(20)(30)(40)(50) - maximum of 50

Park behind free zone (50 demerits) _____

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Bus touches standard while exiting (50 demerits) _____

Failure to Complete Event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event #5

STRAIGHT LINE

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned

Judges should position themselves so all sides of the bus can be viewed. A specific Judge's responsibilities should include counting the number of forward motion stops the bus makes as well as observing the balls touched. All Judges should report to the recording Judge for scoring. In item #2, count balls hit only once, that is, if the ball is hit by front wheel and that same ball is then hit by rear wheels, only one (10) should be marked.

Check each instance of stopping forward motion of bus (demerits) _____
(5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (maximum of 50 demerits)

Check each instance where bus touches or knocks balls off (demerits) _____
(10) (10) (10) (10) (10) (maximum of 50 demerits)
(10) (10) (10) (10) (10)

Drives to either side of pair of markers. (50 demerits) _____

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 6

PARALLEL PARKING

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

Judges should position themselves so that all event boarders can be seen. Judge responsibilities must include timing and measuring the event, as well as watching for the demerit items listed below. All demerits should be relayed to a recording Judge for scoring.
THERE JS A THREE (3) MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON THIS EVENT.

Activate right directional signal (20 demerits) _____

Bus bumper not between cone and barrier (10 demerits) _____

Entering Parking Zone:

Check each instance of backing the bus and charge five (5) demerits for each instance over two (2) - (0) (0) (5) (10) (15) (20) {25} (Maximum of 25 demerits) _____

Bus touches any barrier during event (50 demerits) _____

Tire touches the curb line during event (50 demerits) _____

Failure to apply parking brake, put in neutral, and blow horn (50 demerits) _____

Driver does not complete event within 3 minute time limit (50 demerits) _____ (timing starts when front bumper passes rear event standard, ends when horn is blown)

Parking:

- Bus parked 0" to 5" from curb - 0 demerits
Bus parked 5" to 10" from curb - 5 demerits
Bus parked 10" to 15" from curb - 10 demerits
Bus parked 15" to 20" from curb - 20 demerits
Bus parked over 20" from curb - 50 demerits (demerits) _____

Activate left directional signal (20 demerits) _____

Exiting Parking Zone:

Check for each instance of backing the bus and charge five (5) demerits for each instance over two {2} - (0) (0) (5) (10) (15) (20) (25) (30) (35) (Maximum of 35 demerits) _____

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 7

CURB LINE PARK

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

Judges should split the items to watch and measure from the list below. All demerits, when the driver fails to complete event items, should be reported to the designated recording Judge for scoring.

Failure to perform 5-point mirror check before entry	(25 demerits)	_____
Failure to use right turn signal before entry	(25 demerits)	_____
Failure to cancel right turn signal	(10 demerits)	_____
Hits either back or front barrier	(50 demerits)	_____
Hitting the curb with tire	(50 demerits)	_____
Backing up during event	(50 demerits)	_____
Failure to place bus in neutral gear, apply parking brake and sound horn	(50 demerits)	_____
Right rear tire or student loading door, whichever measurement from the curb is farther		
0" to 12" 0 demerits		
12" to 18" - 20 demerits		
18" and over - 50 demerits	(demerits)	_____
Failure to use left turn signal when leaving	(50 demerits)	_____
Failure to perform 5-point mirror check on leaving (driver needs to point to mirrors)	(25 demerits)	_____
Failure to cancel left turn signal after event	(10 demerits)	_____
Driver opens door	(50 demerits)	_____
Failure to complete event	(50 demerits)	_____
	TOTAL DEMERITS	_____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 8

OFFSET ALLEY

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned _____

Judges should position themselves so that both sides of the bus can be viewed. A specific Judge's responsibilities should include counting the number of forward motion stops the bus makes as well as observing barriers touched. All Judges should report to the recording Judge for scoring.

Check each instance of stopping forward motion of bus (demerits) _____
 (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5)

Check barriers touched by bus:

A = 10 demerits	E = 15 demerits	
B = 10 demerits	F = 15 demerits	
C = 15 demerits	G = 10 demerits	
D = 15 demerits	H = 10 demerits	(demerits) _____

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Driver backs up vehicle (50 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOT AL Demerits _____

(10)	(15)		
G	E		
<hr/>		(15)	(10)
H	F	De	A
(10)	(15)		
		D	B
		(15)	(10)

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 9

**DIMINISHING
CLEARANCE**

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Deductions _____

Total Score Earned

Judges should position themselves so that both sides of the bus can be viewed. A specific Judge's responsibilities should include counting the number of forward motion stops the bus makes as well as observing the balls touched. All Judges should report to the recording Judge for scoring.

Check each instance of stopping forward motion of the bus (demerits) _____
(5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (5) (maximum of 50 demerits)

Check each instance of bus touching marker standards (demerits) _____
(10) (10) (10) (10) (10) (maximum of 50 demerits)

Driver opens door (50 demerits) _____

Failure to complete event (50 demerits) _____

TOTAL Demerits _____

Event Judge Signature

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS SAFETY COMPETITION

Event# 10

VEHICLE INSPECTION

Contestant No. _____

Maximum Score 50

Total Score Earned

ONE JUDGE PER "BUGGED" BUS: Judges are to follow driver and write down what driver indicates as a "bug". If driver finds something wrong that is not one of the "bugs", the judge should tell the driver the answer is wrong and continue inspection.

THERE IS A FIVE (5) MINUTE TIME LIMIT ON THIS EVENT

Contestants will receive 10 points for each item on the bus that is correctly identified.

Item #1 _____ 10 Points _____

Item #2 _____ 10 Points _____

Item #3 _____ 10 Points _____

Item #4 _____ 10 Points _____

Item #5 _____ 10 Points _____

Total Score Earned _____

Event Judge Signature