

KSPTA NEWS

Fall 2024

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**KANSAS STATE PUPIL
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION**



ON THE ROAD TO EDUCATION

State Competition Results	2
2025 Conference Location	3
KSPTA Open Board Positions	3
Back-to-school Ideas	4
Upcoming Events	4

First Kansas International Winner

After being placed on hold in 2020 due to Covid, the National School Transportation Association has brought back the International Safe Driving Competition. On June 29-30, the best school bus drivers from across the United States and Canada gathered in Austin, Texas for the competition where they are tested on their knowledge and driving skills. The number of competitors was down significantly from previous years as many states have either abandoned their state competitions or have completely closed their state associations who hosted these types of events.

Eligibility in the International competition is based on the competitors score, not where they placed in the state's competition. A maximum of two contestants per bus

type with one representing the public sector and the other representing the private sector per state are invited to participate.

Since there were no contractor contestants in this year's state competition in the transit style bus, 5 school bus drivers representing Kansas made the trek to Austin, Texas.

Representing minibuses were Dorothy Dorman (First Student Wichita) and Brian Inloes (Auburn-Washburn USD 437). Martin Myrtle (First Student Wichita) and Anna Cooper (Auburn-Washburn USD 437) represented the conventional buses and Jerry Guerrero (Garden City USD 457) represented Transit buses.

Competitors checked-in for the competition on Saturday, June 29, attended orientation and took their written test. The competition was held June 30 at Hays ISD in Uhl-land, TX.

The NSTA Annual Awards Banquet was held that evening where Kansas



competitors experienced amazing results. In the conventional bus category Martin Myrtle placed 19th and Anna Cooper placed 29th. Jerry Guerrero placed an impressive 4th in transit bus. However, it was Dorothy Dorman who took the night's top honors in the minibus category and is now designated as the top school bus driver in the US and Canada. Dorothy has been driving a bus for First Student Wichita since 2008 and has participating in safe driving competitions since 2009. This is the first time a Kansas school bus driver has won top honors at the International Competition. Brian Inloes also finished an impressive 4th place in the minibus category.

We are very proud of all of our competitors who represented Kansas.



KSPTA Safe Driving Competition Results

Mini Bus Rookie

1st—Kendra Lopez, Derby USD 260
 2nd—Ranel Case, Derby USD 260
 3rd—Clark Croft, First Student Gardner

Mini Bus Experienced

1st—Dorothy Dorman, First Student Wichita
 2nd—Ronda Patrick, First Student Wichita
 3rd—Brian Inloes, Auburn-Washburn USD 437

Conventional Bus Rookie

1st—Steven Rohrs, Ks Central School Bus
 2nd—Cherie Dougherty, Ks Central School Bus
 3rd—Nina Gracy, Goddard USD 265

Conventional Bus Experienced

1st—Martin Myrtle, First Student Wichita
 2nd—Anna Cooper, Auburn-Washburn USD 437
 3rd—Mollie Cornwell, Derby USD 260

Transit Bus Rookie

1st—Mark Johnson, Derby USD 260
 2nd—Hiliana Carrera, Garden City USD 457
 3rd—Kasi Graves, Goddard USD 265

Transit Bus Experienced

1st—Jerry Guerrero, Garden City USD 457
 2nd—Kristy Evers, Goddard USD 265
 3rd—Matt Tottle, Hays USD 489

Team Category

1st—Cornwell/Lopez//Case, Derby USD 260
 2nd—Cooper/Inloes//Chandler, Auburn-Washburn USD 437
 3rd—Clark/Gracy/Terhune—Goddard USD 265

Top Rookie

Kendra Lopez, Derby USD 260

State Champion Overall

Dorothy Dorman, First Student Wichita



KSPTA Board Selects New Conference Location

With recent growth experienced

during the annual conference and state competition the KSPTA Board sought out possible new locations for future

conferences. During the annual KSPTA business meeting at this year's conference, attendees were asked to provide input with many voicing their opinion that it should be kept centrally located. Your board made visits to the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Wichita as well as the Doubletree Hotel near the Wichita airport. During a Zoom



meeting in early July the board unanimously decided to accept the proposal from the Doubletree Hotel for the 2025 conference. The Doubletree offers larger meeting facilities which will be beneficial for the awards banquet and reasonable pricing.

The board will begin planning future regional competitions, the state competition, and the state conference beginning in October.

If you are a school district in the Wichita area and are interested in hosting the state competition, please send us an email at

kspta1970@gmail.com no later than December 1, 2024. Upon receipt of your interest notification we will send you what is required to host the state competition. Proposals to host will be due by January 1 and be evaluation by the board and a location selection announced.



Open Board Positions

Are you interested in being an integral part of the Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association?

Currently, two vacancies exist on the KSPTA Board. These positions are regional representatives for the east region and for the central region. The east region position was opened when Randy Winkler was elected Vice President at the annual conference in June. The central region position was opened upon resignation of a board member following the annual conference.

If you are interested in one of these positions you must live/work within the region you represent. A map of the regions is located on our website (www.kspta.net). Just click on the "MORE" tab, then "BOARD MEMBERS" and scroll to the bottom of the page.

A position description is available upon request by emailing us at kspta1970@gmail.com. Interested persons will be expected to submit a letter of interest explaining why you want to be part of the KSPTA board and any special skills you can bring to further grow the organization.

KSPTA board members are expected to attend all KSPTA board meetings, help with at least one regional competition, and attend all three days of the annual KSPTA conference.

A message from KSPTA President, Clinton Pepper.....

Do you know what makes my heart happy? You! All of you! I get to meet the most inspiring and interesting people in the world better known as school transportation people. What an amazing group you are.

From stories of how you handle the little kids, to driving the bus in all type of situations, to sharing new tricks for success, to your showing your expertise at the driving competitions and continuing your transportation education at conference.

KSPTA takes pride in our hard work and dedication to making every KSPTA Conference a great success. As always, we are counting on you to go the extra mile.

You have no idea how great a positive impression you have left with me. I am very honored to be your KSPTA President.

Thank you,

Always be a first rate version of yourself and not a second rate version of someone else.

Coming Soon!

The 2024 Vendor Guide. This guide will feature products and contact information for all of our vendors who support safe Kansas student transportation at the annual conference. Be sure to check them out and let them know you got their contract information through KSPTA!

This guide will be available on our website (www.kspta.net) and can be sent directly to you upon request at our email address of kspta1970@gmail.com

2024-25 School Bus Safety Poster Contest

The 2024-25 poster contest theme will be:

Safety First – Safety Always

More information will be available around October 1 on our website and through the School Bus Safety Unit at the Kansas State Department of Education.

Upcoming Events

2024

September	Transportation Forums at 8 locations around the State throughout the month
October 21-25	National School Bus Safety Week
October 23	School Transportation Appreciation Day for Kansas

2025

June 4-6	Kansas School Transportation Safety Conference, Wichita
June 23-26	Train the School Bus Driver Trainer

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Back-To-School Ideas for School Transportation

1. Have t-shirts made for your transportation staff that say “ask me about my job”
2. Create business cards for your drivers to distribute when talking to others about driving a bus that tell them how to become a school transportation employee in your district.
3. Put a bus outside of each school location that is hosting a “back-to-school” night. Take this time to remind kids of the bus rules, let new riders become familiar with the bus, and take the opportunity to recruit new bus drivers.
4. Schedule “potential new driver” ride along events.
5. Post on your district’s website videos of your transportation staff giving testimonials about why they love their job
6. Set up a booth at the local farmers market giving out “stop for the bus” flyers, driver recruitment info, etc.
7. Host a “stuff the bus” event collecting school supplies for your district, and again have driver recruitment info available.
8. Park a bus in a highly visible location with a banner that says “NOW HIRING”.
9. Ensure your transportation staff are included in ALL back to school activities/events. Make them “part of the school district team”