



GAPT Mid-Year Conference and Trade Show
October 21 & 22, 2026
Clarence Brown Conference Center
5450 GA-20, Cartersville, GA

Agenda

October 21

GAPT Mid-Year Conference and Tradeshow

7:30 AM – 8:55 AM	Check-In & Breakfast Begin your day with registration and a full breakfast while networking with colleagues and our industry partners.	<i>Lobby</i>
9:00 AM – 9:55 AM	GaDOE Pupil Transportation Division Updates Presenters: Ken Johnson, John Osborne, and Robert Waters Join our GaDOE consultants as they share important updates, discuss current initiatives, and offer insights into what's ahead for the remainder of this school year — and beyond.	<i>Carter Hall</i>
10:00 AM – 10:55 AM	Georgia Motor Carrier Compliance Division Updates Presenters: Captain Anthony Hudson and MCCD Team Stay informed with critical compliance updates from Captain Hudson and the Georgia Motor Carrier Compliance Division. This session will cover what every district must do to stay compliant and ensure your school bus fleet is ready to safely transport Georgia's students	<i>Carter Hall</i>
10:55 AM – 11:10 AM	Break Take a moment to visit with partners and grab refreshments.	
11:15 AM – 12:10 PM	So You Want to be a Transportation Director Presenters: Dr. Rosalyn Vann-Jackson, DSL, MBA, CDPT Chief Support Services Officer, Broken Arrow Public Schools, Oklahoma "People don't want to be pulled along; they want to follow. You have to be a leader, and you achieve this by building relationships."	<i>Carter Hall</i>
12:15 PM – 1:25 PM	Lunch <i>Enjoy lunch and continued networking with colleagues.</i>	
1:30 PM – 2:25 PM	Worker's Compensation Legal Issues Presenter: G. Robert Ryan, Jr., Ryan Law Firm Attorney Robert Ryan will discuss recent developments in worker's compensation law, highlighting key legal issues and common pitfalls that transportation departments may encounter in day-to-day operations.	<i>Carter Hall</i>



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2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Break	
2:50 PM – 3:45 PM	GSBA Risk Management (Training Modules & Current Claim Data) Presenter: Mickey Key, Safety & Risk Control Coordinator, Georgia School Boards Association. Gain valuable insight into GSBA's training modules for member districts and an overview of current claim data related to school bus operations — helping you strengthen safety and reduce risk across your transportation program.	<i>Carter Hall</i>
3:45PM – 4:15 PM	Platinum Sponsors Updates Hear the latest updates and insights from our valued Platinum Sponsors: • Peach State / Thomas Bus • Yancey / Blue Bird • Rush / IC Bus	<i>Carter Hall</i>
4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Move to Trade Show	
4:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Trade Show & Networking Reception Join us for an engaging Trade Show & Networking Reception , bringing Georgia's pupil transportation leaders together with the industry partners who help keep our operations moving forward. Explore the latest products, services, technologies, and solutions while connecting with vendors and colleagues in a relaxed, interactive setting. Enjoy themed food and beverage stations featuring hors d'oeuvres and refreshments throughout the trade show floor, creating the perfect atmosphere to make new connections, exchange ideas, and strengthen partnerships across Georgia's pupil transportation community.	<i>Etowah Banquet Hall</i>

Enjoy the Balance of Your Evening!



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7:00 AM – 8:25 AM	Breakfast Fuel up for another engaging day of sessions and networking.	<i>Lobby</i>
8:30 AM – 9:25 AM	Purchasing and using the GA State Contract Presenters: Billy Gilbert, Procurement Officer Learn how to take full advantage of the Georgia State Contract — including best practices, ease of use, and the importance of leveraging this resource to streamline purchasing for your district.	<i>Carter Hall</i>
9:30 AM – 10:25 AM	IEP (Individualized Education Program) Presenter: • Lanetta Mills, Executive Director, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools • Donna Simmons, Director of Specialized Instruction Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools • Tammy Perkins-Scarboro, Lead Director, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools An in-depth discussion on managing transportation within the IEP framework, addressing legal requirements, collaboration with special education, and best practices for serving all students effectively.	<i>Carter Hall</i>
10:25 AM – 10:40 AM	Break	



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October 22

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10:45 AM – 11:40 AM	Director's Panel – Innovative Ideas from Around the State Presenters: • Presenter TBA • Presenter TBA • Presenter TBA Hear from transportation directors across Georgia as they share innovative ideas, creative solutions, and lessons learned that are making a real difference in their districts.	<i>Carter Hall</i>
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Southeastern Pupil Transportation Academy (SPTA) Presenter: Sam Ham for a discussion of the launch of the Southeastern Pupil Transportation Academy , GAPT's new home for certification program. The professional certification program's evolution and vision for the future!	<i>Carter Hall</i>
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Q & A, GAPT Updates & Parting Remarks	<i>Carter Hall</i>
12:30 PM	Dismissal and/or Lunch for SPTA Participants	
1:00PM – 5:30PM	SPTA Courses – Must register separately to attend	Carter Hall & TBA