



ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRIVER SAFETY COMPETITION

1. The Georgia School Bus Driver Safety Competition will be limited to two (2) regular education bus drivers per school district (1st and 2nd place drivers) and two (2) special need teams (driver and monitor) from each school district. Registration deadline for entrance into the state safety competition must be submitted no later than April 30th.
2. All regular education bus drivers will be required to compete in a local school district driver safety competition. In which the scores will be grouped per district competition and the highest two scores in each district will be eligible to participate in the state competition. In the event that the 1st place driver in a school district cannot attend, the 2nd and 3rd place drivers in that district may substitute up to and until the registration deadline has expired. All special needs bus drivers and monitors do not have to compete in a local school district competition to participate in the state safety competition.
3. The regular education bus driver and special needs driver and monitor names from each school district, who will be participating in the state safety competition, must be submitted to the GAPT Safety Competition Committee no later than April 30th.
4. All regular and special need competitors must have driven a regularly scheduled full-time route, from the school district they are assigned, for the just completed school year. Or, a driver must be a full-time substitute who drives different routes on a regular scheduled route, from the school district they are assigned, for the just completed school year. A school year is defined as driving a bus on or before the current school year begins. In other words, the driver must have a least one (1) year of school bus driving experience and not just a few months to be eligible to compete in the current year state safety competition event. Certification from the participant(s) school district transportation director is required.
5. For regular education bus drivers, each host school district will select a minimum of 8 events for their local driver safety competition event. It is recommended that the competition events mirror those found in the state safety competition manual located on the GAPT website: www.gaptonline.org. The local competition must include a minimum of eight (8) events with any combination of their choosing from the fifteen (15) events listed in the state safety competition manual.



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6. The GAPT Safety Competition Committee requests that school districts who host local driver safety competitions, allow drivers from school districts who do not have a local competition, to participate and compete. As stated in Rule #2, these drivers from outside the host school district will not be competing against the host school district drivers but with drivers from their own school district.
7. In order to qualify for the state safety competition, a regular or special needs education driver must possess a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and meet licensing and certification requirements by the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) and the Georgia Department of Education (GADoE). In addition, he/she must not have had a preventable school bus accident (as defined by the National Safety Council Safe Driver Award Program). No preventable accident(s) or moving violation citation(s) should have occurred in the previous year prior to the current state safety competition. Moving violation citation(s) must have been dismissed or discharged prior to the start of the current state safety competition.
8. The 1st place winner of the regular driver and special needs driver and monitor of the state safety competition will be offered the opportunity, to be sponsored, by the GAPT to attend the National/International Safety Competition. If the 1st place participant cannot attend, then the GAPT State Safety Committee will offer the 2nd placed participant sponsorship. If the 2nd place participant cannot attend then the GAPT State Safety Committee will continue to proceed to the next placed participant until one is available to attend the national competition. Other special need bus teams may attend the national competition at their own expense.
9. Under National/International rules, after the state competition has been completed, a driver cannot be involved in a preventable school bus accident prior to the National/International competition. In the event this has occurred, the process in Rule #8 will be followed for the selection of a qualified participant to attend.
10. No local competition driver will be eligible to compete in state competition unless he/she meets the above criteria.