



**Montgomery - Bucks  
Pupil Transportation  
Association  
2022 School Bus Safety Competition**

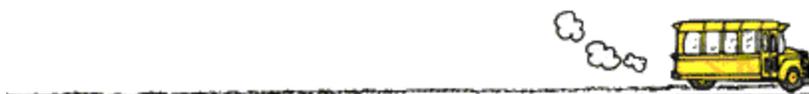


**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL  
333 Centennial Road  
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Registration of Drivers   | 6:30 – 7:15 |
| Verbal Orientation of Drivers<br>(RE: Rules of Contest,<br>Course Review) | 7:20 – 7:25 |
| Written Examination<br>(All materials provided)                           | 7:25 - 7:55 |
| Driver Demonstration -<br>Course review                                   | 8:00 - 8:30 |
| Driving Skill Events Begin  | 8:30        |
| Lunch and Award Presentation  |             |





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**MONTGOMERY BUCKS  
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION  
2022 OFFICERS**

President: Nate Bray, School District of Springfield Township

Past President: Chris Robbins, Upper Dublin School District

Secretary: Kelly Rhodunda, Upper Moreland School District

Treasurer: Bill Weghorst, Hatboro Horsham School District

**INTRODUCTION**

Safety Competitions have proven to be one of the most effective instructional tools available to improve a person's driving skills. The safety competition emphasizes the following objectives:

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

**SAFETY COMPETITION INFORMATION**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The information assembled in this booklet is patterned after the Pennsylvania and National School Bus Drivers Safety Competition. It is not intended that all events or competitions will be conducted in the same manner, but it is designed





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

as a guide in the preparation of contestants for the Pennsylvania School Bus Drivers Safety Competition. Due to various locations of events across the Commonwealth, the measurements at each event will not necessarily be the same as what is written in this information booklet.

### CLASS AND SIZES OF BUSES USED

The committee will provide buses for all contestants. All buses are Blue Bird Vision, 72-passenger conventional buses with air brakes. Width is 96", length is 39', and the wheelbase is 22'5".

### PARTICIPATION IN FIELD EVENTS

Contestants will be **assigned** a number on the morning of the competition. Contestants will be expected to drive in that order unless the judges rule otherwise. Events may not be in the order listed.

### SEAT BELTS

All buses will be equipped with a seat belt for the driver. Contestants **MUST WEAR** seat belts in all field events. Failure to use the seat belt during the field events will automatically disqualify the driver from the competition.

### REGULATIONS

1. Contestants are to report to the designated area between 6:30-7:15 a.m. on May 14, 2022. **Late arrival will disqualify a contestant!** Drivers will be required to show their CDL (photo license), School Bus Endorsement Card, and Physical Card at the time of registration. A driver without proper credentials will not be allowed to participate. The written test will start promptly at 7:25 a.m.
2. Contestants will be required to stay in the driver's area until assigned to begin competition.
3. Any driver who knowingly accepts signals from spectators or another driver is automatically disqualified. All spectators and drivers who are not in the competition must stay in the areas designated for that group.

\*\*\*\*\***CELL PHONES, DRONES AND VIDEO ARE PROHIBITED**\*\*\*\*\*



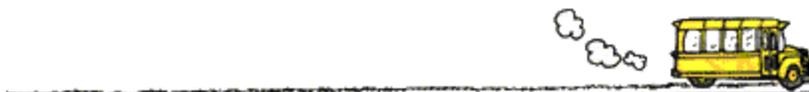


# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

4. In all events, the bus doors must be kept closed unless rules and regulation of the event requires them to be opened. It shall be assumed that the driver has pupil passengers on board from the start of the contest and therefore, he/she must conduct themselves accordingly. Five demerits will be charged in all events if the above-mentioned rules are not followed.
5. Bus lights shall be on during the time the bus is in operation according to the current regulation.
6. Each contestant will be required to maintain proper driving position at all times except when the rules of the event require the contestant to leave the seat of the vehicle. Proper driving position is being firmly in the seat with feet placed firmly on the floor or on controls. The seat belt will be worn and snugly fastened at all times during the competition. The driver will not be permitted to put his/her head out of the bus window.
7. Because of various regulations used by school districts, the safety competition rules shall apply, even though they might vary from the rules and regulation that a driver normally operates under.
8. Due to the fact that contestants will be in one group during the competition, each contestant is placed on his/her honor not to assist another contestant in any way, in as this could result in total disqualification.
9. Each contestant will have five minutes to become familiar with controls and instrumentation of the bus prior to the operation of the vehicle. **No tools are permitted to be used to adjust vehicle equipment.** All contestants should inform the judge (starter) when they are ready to begin the equipment defect event, height judgement or the field events. No contestant will start an event unless informed to do so by the judge of the event. All contestants should remember that the last driver through should be given the same respect as the first driver competing.





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

10. Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. Winners will be announced upon completion of all events by all contestants. Every participating contestant is requested to remain in the driver's area until all events are final and the announcement of winners is ready to be made. Winners will be announced in order with award as follows:

- a. Rookie of the Year Award (plaque)
- b. The Pat Scampton Memorial Award for highest written test score (plaque)
- c. Individuals placing first, second and third place overall (trophy)
- d. Individuals placing fourth through tenth place overall (ribbon)
- e. First, second and third place overall team score (plaque)

11. In the event of a tie, the score of the written test will break the tie. If a tie still exists, the scores of the back-up event and the offset alley will be combined and the highest combined score of the two events will break the tie. If a tie exists still, the parallel parking score will be combined for the tie breaker.

### **SAFETY COMPETITION EVENTS**

Each of the following sections includes the title of the event, the purpose of the event, and a description of the event, special instructions, and the judging/scoring procedures.

The better the contestants understand this information, the more successful they are likely to be in competition.

The sequence of events in this booklet is not necessarily the sequence of the events of the competition. All events in the safety competition are included.

### **PREPARATION TO DRIVE**

Driver number shall be placed on the front bumper of the bus. Drivers have 5 minutes to adjust seats and mirrors and become familiar with equipment before starting the event. Seat belts must be worn and headlights must be on during the event. Tools are not permitted to adjust vehicle equipment.

### **WRITTEN TEST**

Maximum Score - 100 points





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

Purpose of the event: There are many laws, rules and regulations which a school bus driver must become familiar and which he/she must faithfully observe. These laws, rules, and regulations were established as a result of years of study and experience. The purpose of this test is to determine the extent of the contestant's familiarity with these important guidelines of safe driving.

Instruction: The contestant will receive a test booklet consisting of 25 questions. The contestant will choose the best answer and mark his/her answer sheet accordingly. A 30-minute time limit is given to complete the test.

Scoring: For each correct answer the contestant is awarded 4 points. All questions and answers were compiled from the following publications:

- Pub 95 - The Pennsylvania Driver's Manual
- Pub 117 - The Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual
- Pub 223 - The Pennsylvania Commercial Driver's Manual
- Some questions may be in locations pertinent to professional school bus drivers including, but not limited to: The Pennsylvania Code, The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, The Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law, and/or other regulatory documents.

### **START**

Maximum Score - 30 points

All buses will be equipped with a seat belt for the driver. Contestants **MUST WEAR** seat belts in all field events. Failure to use the seat belt during the field events will result in 15 demerits from your overall score. Appropriate physical appearance not being appropriate also results in 15 demerits being deducted from your score.

### **HEIGHT JUDGEMENT**

Maximum Score - 15 points

This test is designed to determine the contestant's ability to judge overhead clearance on both sides of the top of the bus.

The bus will be stationary approximately fifteen (15) feet from the pole vault





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

standards. The driver will direct the judge to raise the pole vault standard until, in the drivers' determination, the exact height to clear the bus under the cross bar is reached. The pole will only be moved in one direction. The driver will blow the horn when the correct height is reached.

Scoring: Scoring for this is three demerits for each 2 inch increment over the exact measurement where the bus will be clear. Anything below clearance will be a 15-point deduction.

### **VEHICLE INSPECTION**

Maximum Score - 50 points

Purpose of the event: A school bus driver is required by law to make a daily inspection of his/her bus before transporting pupils. A school bus found to be unsafe should not be used for the transportation of students until such defects are corrected. Such inspection should be planned and conducted in a systematic and logical manner to assure that all defects are noted. The purpose of this event is to evaluate the driver's efficiency of conducting this inspection.

Instructions and scoring: The contestant will make a systematic, logical, and thorough inspection of the bus. Do not start the engine of the bus for any inspection procedures. Points will be awarded for defects found and reported to the judge. Each defect found is awarded 10 points toward the total for the event.

The time limit for completion of the bus inspection is **six** minutes.

### **BACK UP**

Maximum score - 50 points

Instructions and scoring: Each stall (to back into) is identified by parallel lines on the pavement 10 feet apart. Each front corner will be marked by upright standards that will not interfere with the backing of the bus. In order to limit the driver to established maneuvering room, a front wheel limitation line will be placed on the pavement perpendicular to the parallel stall marker lines. The approach to the backup stall will be made from the right side of the roadway.





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

The driver will be permitted two backups before five demerits will be charged for each additional back up. Upon completion of the event, the bus should park as nearly in the center of the ten-foot stall as possible. (This should be both ends of the bus). Centering will be determined by the relationship of the center of the front and rear bumpers to the center of the stall. Five demerits will also be given for every six inches, or fraction thereof that bus is parked in excess of one foot from the rear barrier. If the Contestant fails to blow the horn to notify judges upon completion of the event or the driver fails to place the transmission in neutral, fifteen demerits will be deducted for each. If the bus touches the front wheel limitation line, twenty five demerits are deducted. If the bus touches the front upright standards or the tire touches the side marker line, ten demerits will be deducted for each. If the bus extends over the rear barrier line, fifty demerits will be deducted.

If the driver opens the door while proceeding through the event fifteen demerits will be given for each instance.

A **FIVE-MINUTE** limit is placed on this event. If the time is exceeded 50 demerits will be given.

### **RAILROAD CROSSING**

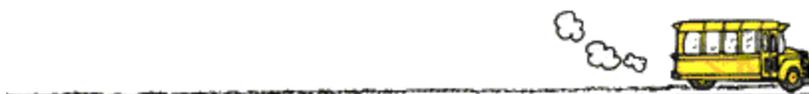
Maximum Score - 35 points

Purpose of the event: To evaluate the driver's degree of care and knowledge of laws, rules and regulations required operating a school bus across railroad tracks.

Instructions: A simulated railroad crossing will be established. Layout will be as follows:

1. A simulated roadway that crosses a parallel set of tracks.
2. A railroad crossing sign will be placed in the position at right side of roadway.

Scoring: Everything required of a driver will be judged from the time the contestant approaches the crossing until he/she reaches the other side of the crossing. Driver will be checked on use of mirrors, stopping bus, opening door, checking traffic, driving across railroad tracks, etc. While most violations charged in this test are violations of fixed laws and regulations, some are based on generally good, acceptable, safe driving procedures.





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

Failure to stop with front bumper less than 15 feet or more than 50 feet from tracks is a thirty-five demerit deduction. Failure to activate four-way hazard lights is a fifteen demerit deduction. Failure to open the service door is a ten demerit deduction. If the red lights are activated when the service door is opened, the driver will receive a thirty five demerit deduction. Failure to open the driver's side window, look right and left, close the service door before forward motion of the bus, failure to keep the bus in low gear while crossing the tracks and failure to cancel four way hazard lights will result in a ten demerit deduction for each instance. Failure to complete the event will result in a thirty five demerit deduction.

### **STRAIGHT LINE**

Maximum Score - 50 points

Purpose of the event: To determine the driver's ability to maneuver the wheels of a school bus over a straight path of a given width.

Instructions: The right wheels of the bus 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 is the width of the dual wheels plus 3 inches.

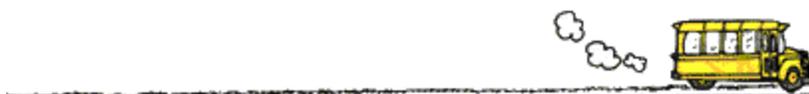
Scoring: Points will be deducted for stopping forward movement during the event – five demerits each instance (max 20 demerits), touching or knocking markers off – ten demerits each instance, each instance of jerky or uneven movement of the bus – two demerits each instance (max 10 demerits), driving to either side of the markers – fifty demerit deduction, failure to complete the event or use of left wheel to drive through markers – fifty demerit deduction.

### **DIMINISHING CLEARANCE**

Maximum Score - 50 points

Purpose of the event: In this event the driver is required to drive the bus in a straight line with diminishing clearances, and also to drive in a smooth continuous manner.

Instructions: For the purpose of conducting this event four pairs of parallel standards will be set up. Each pair of standards however will be parallel one to





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

the next. The distance between each pair of standards will be 25 feet. The width of each pair will vary as follows.

1. Beginning at the start of the event, the width of the first pair of standards will be equal to the widest part of the bus plus eight inches.
2. The width of the second pair of standards will be as above plus six inches.
3. The width of the third pair of standards will be as above plus four inches.
4. The width of the fourth pair of standards will be as above plus two inches

The driver will be expected to proceed through this lane in a smooth and continuous manner without touching any of the marker standards.

Scoring: Two demerits will be given for each instance of jerky or uneven movement (with a maximum of 10 demerits). Five demerits will be charged for each instance of stopping the forward motion of the bus (with a maximum of 10 demerits). Fifteen demerits will be given if the driver opens the door while proceeding through the event. Ten demerits will be given for each instance of bumping or touching any of the barriers (max of 50 demerits). Failure to complete the event is an automatic Fifty demerit deduction.

### PARALLEL PARKING

Maximum Score- 50 points

Purpose of Test: This event is designed to evaluate the contestant's ability to park the bus parallel to a curb without touching barriers placed at both ends of the parking area, without touching the curb and within 18 inches of the curb. 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.

Instructions: A section of rope will represent the curb, unless a natural curb is available. Two barriers will be set at right angles to the curb line, extending out eight feet from the curb. The distance between the two barriers will be:

**For all conventional buses, the length of the bus plus seven feet.**

Measurement will be made to determine how close the bus is parked to the curb line, and for determining the number of demerits to be charged.





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

The contestant must have the bus parked, set parking brake, and sound the horn when finished.

**Backing in:** The contestant will be permitted to back up twice before demerits are charged.

**Pulling out:** The contestants will be permitted to back up twice before demerits are charged.

**Scoring:** Scoring will be based on the method in which the driver enters and exits a stall.

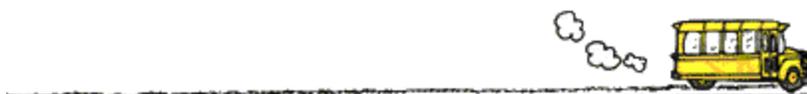
|   | Demerits |
|---|----------|
| Failure to park the bus, set parking brake and sound the horn |          |
| Within the three (3) minute time limit                        | 50       |
| Bus touching front or rear barrier at any time                | 50       |
| Keep the door closed during event                             | 50       |
| Failure to complete event                                     | 50       |
| Failure to use right turn signal before entering              | 50       |
| First instance of touching curb with tire                     | 50       |
| For each instance of backing more than twice                  | 5        |
| (Not to exceed 25 demerits)                                   |          |

### **Scoring for Zones Parallel to Curb:**

|                        |                      |             |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Zone 1                 | 0" to 3" from curb   | 0 demerits  |
| Zone 2                 | 3" to 6" from curb   | 3 demerits  |
| Zone 3                 | 6" to 9" from curb   | 6 demerits  |
| Zone 4                 | 9" to 12" from curb  | 9 demerits  |
| Zone 5                 | 12" to 15" from curb | 12 demerits |
| Zone 6                 | 15" to 18" from curb | 15 demerits |
| Over 18" from the curb |                      | 50 demerits |

### **Scoring for Pulling Out**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Failure to use left turn signal               | 50 demerits |
| Each instance for backing more than twice     | 5 demerits  |
| (Not to exceed 25 demerits)                   |             |
| First instance of touching the curb with tire | 50 demerits |





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association

## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition



### **STOP LINE**

Maximum Score - 50 Points

Purpose of event: This event is designed to determine the driver's depth perception, his/her ability to use cross view mirrors, and the ability to bring the bus to a smooth, complete stop at a designated point.

Instructions: A stop line, 4 feet long will be established at the end of a straight line. The driver will be expected to bring the bus to a complete stop as close to the stop line as possible. Only one stop should be made. The driver can approach the stop line at any desired speed.

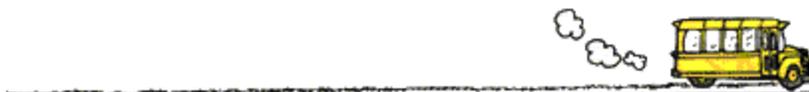
Scoring: Fifty demerits if the driver fails to activate the 8-way warning lights. Each instance the bus is brought to a stop more than once is a five demerit deduction. If the bus goes over the stop line, fifty demerits are deducted. One demerit is deducted for every inch the bus is stopped from the stop line. If the driver fails to open the service door there is a ten demerit deduction. If the driver fails to set the parking brake there is a ten demerit deduction. If the driver fails to place the transmission in neutral, there is a ten demerit deduction. If the driver fails to close the service door before proceeding from a stop there is a twenty five demerit deduction. Failure to complete the event results in a fifty demerit deduction.

### **CONTROLLED RIGHT TURN**

Maximum Score - 50 points

Purpose of the event: This event is designed to determine a driver's proficiency in judging the distance and handling of a bus in making a right hand turn at a street intersection. The street intersection will be considered to have both streets 40 feet wide, with parking permitted on each side of the street.

Instructions: The driver will proceed on a street and successfully maneuver the bus through a right hand turn onto an intersecting street. The maneuver will be conducted in a smooth manner through the turn at a speed equal to a right hand turn conducted during a daily run.





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition

Scoring: Failure to activate the right turn signal is a fifty demerit deduction. If the tire touches the curb line or simulated curb line on the turn there is a fifty demerit deduction. Entering and exiting the turn, the demerit deduction for each is indicated by the color of the parallel line visible at the outside edge of the right rear dual tire. Yellow is ten demerits, green is twenty demerits, blue is thirty demerits, red is forty demerits and black is fifty demerits. Failure to complete the event is a fifty demerit deduction. For scoring purposes, only that portion of the tire tread that actually is in contact with the ground will be judged.

It will be assumed that both streets are an artery and no stop of the bus will be required.

### OFFSET ALLEY

Maximum Score - 50 points

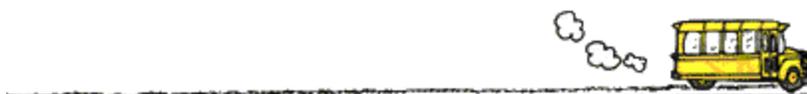
Purpose of the event: The event is designed to evaluate the driver's ability to handle the bus under actual or simulated driving conditions.

An offset alley is set up to determine the contestant's ability to drive the bus through two offset lanes with a minimum of hesitation and without touching barriers.

Instructions: Two sets of parallel barriers are set up 10 feet 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 the length of the bus plus 3 feet.

Scoring: Five demerits will be given for each instance of stopping the forward motion of the bus while proceeding through the offset alley – maximum deduction of ten demerits. Fifteen demerits will be given if the contestant opens the door while bus is in motion. The contestant will be disqualified (50 demerits) if the bus is backed up at any time during the event. If barrier A, B, G or H is touched, 10 demerits will be deducted for each instance. If barrier C, D, E or F is touched, 15 demerits will be deducted for each instance.

(10)            (15)  
A                C

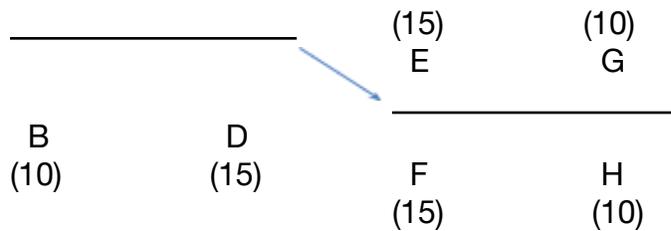




# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association



## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition



### CURB LINE PARK

Maximum Score – 50 points

Purpose of the event: To test the skills of the driver to make a loading or unloading maneuver that requires pulling into a curb parking zone that has a limited distance.

Instructions: The event will be set up to simulate a limited curb length between other parked vehicles. The loading area will be marked by barriers which will be spaced 2 times the length of the bus. The contestant must pull into the curb and pull out without backing up.

The contestant will be judged on the use of right turn signal when pulling in and the left turn signal when pulling out. Proper use of mirrors will also be judged. The 5-point mirror check should be made. The contestant will be scored at both rear tire and service door entry. You are scored on the farthest measurement away from the curb. A measurement will be made at the area to determine how close the bus is parked to the curb line. The contestant must place the bus in neutral, apply parking brake, have feet on the floor and sound the horn.

Scoring: For performing any of the following: hitting the front or rear barrier, hitting the curb with tire, backing up during the event, failure to place the bus in neutral (applying brake, have feet on the floor and sound horn), failure to perform 5-point mirror check when leaving, failure to wear seat belt, failure to complete event, failure to have headlights on or failure to keep door closed during event will result in a fifty demerit deduction on the event for each occurrence. Failure to perform a 5-point mirror check upon entry, failure to use right turn signal before entry or failure to use left turn signal when leaving will result in a twenty five demerit deduction from the event on each occurrence of either infraction. Ten demerits will be deducted for failing to cancel turn signal upon entering or leaving the curb line. Scoring at the curb line will be measured





# Montgomery - Bucks Pupil Transportation Association

## 2022 School Bus Safety Competition



from the right rear tire and the student loading door (whichever is farther from the curb) – 0”-12” (0 demerits), 12”-18” (20 demerits), 18” and over (50 demerits).

### **SCORING SUMMARY**

| <b>EVENT DESCRIPTION</b>     | <b>POSSIBLE POINTS</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| WRITEN EXAMINATION           | 100                    |
| START                        | 30                     |
| HEIGHT JUDGEMENT             | 15                     |
| VEHICLE INSPECTION           | 50                     |
| BACK UP                      | 50                     |
| STOP LINE                    | 50                     |
| RIGHT TURN                   | 50                     |
| PARALLEL PARKING             | 50                     |
| OFFSET ALLEY                 | 50                     |
| STRAIGHT LINE                | 50                     |
| DIMINISHING CLEARANCE        | 50                     |
| RAILROAD CROSSING            | 35                     |
| CURB LINE PARK               | 50                     |
| <b>TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS</b> | <b>630</b>             |

