For immediate release
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North Carolina Students’ School Bus Safety Posters Win State/National Honors

Two North Carolina public school students not only won top honors in the state’s School Bus Safety Poster contest but also placed first and second in the national competition, which was held earlier this month to select the official poster for National School Bus Safety Week 2007.

The poster contest theme, “Be Aware! Cross With Care,” reminds students to be very careful when crossing the street to get on or off the school bus. The slogan of the 2006 poster contest will serve as the slogan for next year’s National School Bus Safety Week in October 2007.

First place winners in the state competition were awarded a $50 savings bond sponsored by the Governor’s Highway Safety Program. (Note: Students and their schools/grade levels reflect the 2005-06 school year.)

- Division 1 (K-2)
  - Samantha Hope Burchett, grade 2, District 7 Elementary (Cumberland County Schools)
  - Teachers: Louise Barefoot, Rick Scott
- Division 2 (3-5)
  - Rebecca Lowder, grade 5, Spring Creek Elementary (Wayne County Schools)
  - Teacher: Nancy Seate
- Division 3 (6-8)
  - Kayla Norris, grade 6, Tar Heel Middle (Bladen County Schools)
  - Teacher: Pamela Bryant

Winning posters from the North Carolina competition were sent to the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest for judging in Kansas City, MO. The winners were announced last week at the annual conference of the National Association for Pupil Transportation.

North Carolina’s Division 1 winning poster by Samantha Hope Burchett received first place honors among all entries from across the country in Division 1. Burchett will receive a $500 savings bond as the first place winner. North Carolina’s Division 3 winning poster by Kayla Norris received second place honors among all entries from across the country in Division 3. Norris will receive a $250 savings bond as the second place winner.

Winning posters are featured, along with other category winners, on the School Bus Safety Web site at www.ncbussafety.org. For more information on school bus safety, please visit the School Bus Safety Web site or contact the NCDPI’s Communications Division at 919/807-3450.