

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

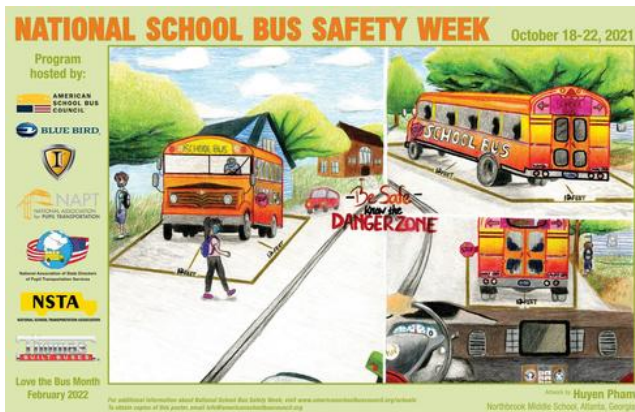
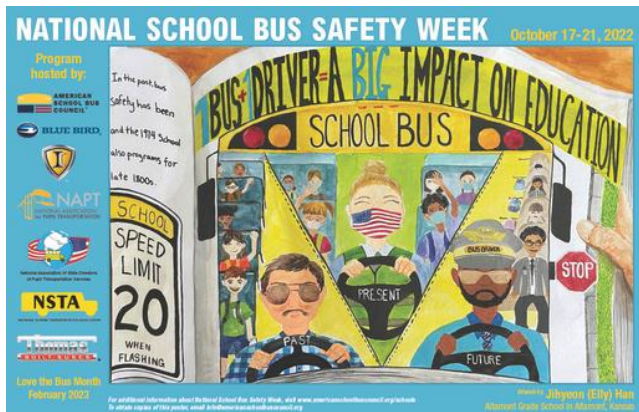
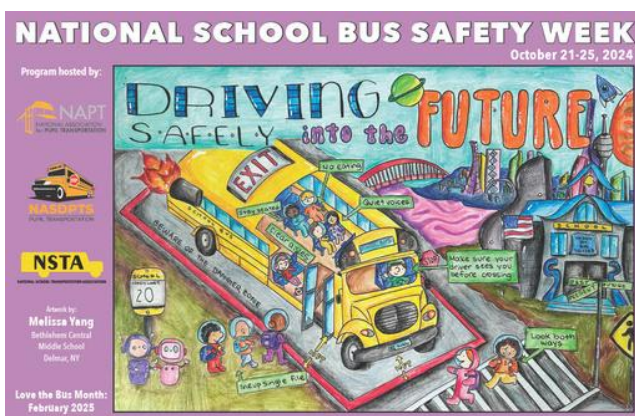
Every year, thousands of school districts in over 40 states participate in local and state-level competitions to select artwork that depicts school bus safety-related themes and encourages and promotes school bus safety. The winning posters are used to promote safer school transportation for everyone. State winners advance to the national contest.

The 2025-26 National Poster Contest aims to select poster that best depicts the theme:

Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes

A panel of judges, consisting of representatives from three national student transportation associations – the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), and the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) – will evaluate the national submissions.

Past National Overall Winners



WHEN CAN POSTERS BE DRAWN?

Posters can be drawn anytime between
November 2, 2025 - April 3, 2026.

The posters must be submitted to state directors by **April 17, 2026.**

CATEGORIES

Each participating US state, Canadian province, or overseas US military installation may submit one (only first-place winners) winning poster in each of the following categories:

- **Division #1** - Grades K-2;
- **Division #2** - Grades 3-5;
- **Division #3** - Grade 6-8;
- **Division #4** - Special Education (Grades K- 12);
- ***Division #5** - CAD (Computer Aided Drawing);
- ***Division #6** - International entries.

**Division #5 - CAD and Division # 6 - International entries are eligible for competition within those respective divisions but are not eligible to be the Overall Contest Winner.*

POSTER THEME

Every poster and slogan must harmonize with the 2025-26 poster contest theme:

Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes

Contestants must illustrate the above theme only. The theme on the poster must be exactly as shown above, to include all punctuation.



FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION: SUBMIT AT THE STATE/PROVINCE LEVEL

The National School Bus Safety Poster Contest is supported by a state/province level infrastructure. The national contest is open only to winners of state/province contests or contests held by overseas US military installations.

Contact your state director of pupil transportation for information about where to submit posters in your state contest.

A poster must win at the state level to be entered into the national contest.

As an exception, students who live in a US state, Canadian province, or overseas US military installation that does not have a contest may submit entries directly to the National Association for Pupil Transportation.

FOR POSTERS SUBMITTED VIA MAIL/HARD COPY SUBMISSION:

All posters and related intellectual property rights become the property of the National Association for Pupil Transportation upon receipt and are not returned to the artist, his/her parents/legal guardians, art instructor or art teacher, school, state or contest sponsor, or any other person(s) claiming a right, title, or other interest in the poster. Posters that have been used for any promotional purposes may not be submitted.

NEW THIS YEAR: Administrators will have the option to submit posters digitally and by mail. Mail submission rules will not apply to digital submissions; however, the National Association for Pupil Transportation upon receipt will retain rights for use of the digital submission.

CONTEST DEADLINE

Winning STATE contest posters must be received by the National Association for Pupil Transportation from state administrators by **May 15, 2026.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ EACH SET OF RULES FOR CORRECT SUBMISSION!

Note: NEW submission details for 2025-26 with the option to submit digitally.

POSTER SPECIFICATIONS

Size/Orientation: Completed poster size must be 11" x 17" or 12" x 18". Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.

Poster Paper: Designs should be submitted on quality tag, poster illustration board or heavy paper. Construction paper may be used but entries must be mounted on quality tag poster. Lamination is not permitted and will disqualify the poster.

Colors: There is no limitation on the use and number of colors.

Media: There is no limitation on the type of media -- such as print, crayon, felt pen, etc. -- used on the poster design; however, wood, plastic, glass or metal should not be part of the poster. Collage materials should not be used. Glued on pieces will disqualify the poster.

Lettering and Drawing: The poster design may incorporate freehand letters only. Stenciled, preprinted, manufactured stick-on or press-on letters or tracings may not be used and will disqualify the poster. Lettering should be clearly legible, even if used as part of the poster design. Cut paper / stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stick-on stencils) are not permitted and will disqualify the poster.

Copyright Materials: Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted materials (i.e. company name, logo, comic and/or television characters/titles), including stock artwork, meaning photographs or other images of common places, landmarks, nature, events or people; clip art, meaning anything from an existing collection of pictures or images that can be imported from or into the poster; and non-original raster graphics or vector graphics.

IMPORTANT: School bus and school district names and/or logos could be considered copyrighted material and should be removed from ALL submissions (drawings and CAD).

Creative: Drawings must be original, correct in safety concept and the exclusive work of the student entering the contest in idea, design and execution. All artwork should be positive in approach, demonstrating only proper school bus safety behaviors.

IMPORTANT: At least a part of a yellow school bus must be present in the poster.

The theme: Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes must be included in the poster design. See previous winners for examples. Remember to display the theme on the poster as it is written above.

Mail In Submission Information*: There must be an entry blank (next page) securely fastened to the back of the poster which includes the student's name, grade, age, teacher's name, email address, school name and school address. Please print clearly. Do not place name, school, etc., on the front of the poster. Display information on the back only. The below form MUST be used at it pertains all the required information, please do not submit to national with a state created submission form.

*See mailing instructions on the next page.

NEW THIS YEAR: Digital Submissions will be accepted. Here is the information:

- **Accepted digital formats:** PDF or high-resolution PNG or JPG.
- **Image requirements:** PNG or JPG images must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at 11" x 17". This means the image should have 3300 pixels in width and 5100 pixels in height to achieve the desired resolution and print size.
- **Entry page submission will also be done digitally.**
- **The platform for digital submissions will be available in late 2025/early 2026.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

Prominent individuals in the field of pupil transportation will evaluate posters. Criteria for the selection of award-winning posters are:

- **Safety Impact:** Relationship of the poster design to the school bus safety practices.
- **Originality:** Originality of the poster and how the idea is expressed in the poster design.
- **Artistic Quality:** Artwork and its execution.
- **Visual Impact:** Visual impact of the poster design.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for each division as follows:

- **1st Place and Overall Winner:** \$500 check
- **1st Place Winners of remaining 3 divisions:** \$250 check
- **2nd Place Winners of each 4 divisions :** \$100 check
- **3rd Place Winners of each 4 divisions :** \$50 check
- **1st Place Winner – CAD division:** \$50 check
- **1st Place Winner – International division:** \$50 check



MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Students and teachers must send posters to the directors at their state level.

Each state administrator may send no more than FIVE posters **from each state/province. No more than five posters** may be entered in the national contest (one in each Division listed above).

Do NOT roll posters. They must be mailed / delivered flat.



The 1st Place/Overall winning poster will be used to promote National School Bus Safety Week for 2026.

Summer: National winners will be notified and promoted

Fall (after the conclusion of the Annual Conference): Prizes will be sent

**For mail in submission:
Winning posters from each participating state/province/overseas US military installation be mailed first class in a flat envelope to:**

*National School Bus Safety Poster Contest
c/o NAPT
1971 Western Ave #221
Albany, NY 12203*

Digital submission information will be available in late 2025/early 2026.

Please complete and attach this form to the back of each poster in accordance with poster specifications noted in the contest rules. The below information is important and needed. Posters may be disqualified at the national level if the above label is not used for poster submission!

POSTER LABEL
LABEL FOR ENTRY - PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name _____

Grade _____ **Age** _____

School _____

Teacher's Name _____

Teacher's Email _____

School Phone Number _____

School Address

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Student's Home Address

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

☐ **Division #1** - Grades K-2

☐ **Division #2** - Grades 3-5

☐ **Division #3** - Grades 6-8

☐ **Division #4** - Special
Education (Grades K - 12)

☐ **Division #5** - CAD
(Computer Aided Drawing)

☐ **Division #6** - International
Entries

***Do not place this
information on the
front of the poster.***

***Display on the back
only!***

***All fields must be
completed!***

Please select prize payment preference which will be used for winning posters:

If my poster is selected as a winning poster, the prize check can be mailed to:

☐ Prize money mailed to home address

☐ Prize money mailed to school address