



**MOAPT**  
Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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## 2026

# MOAPT's Director Region 6

## Jon McKinney

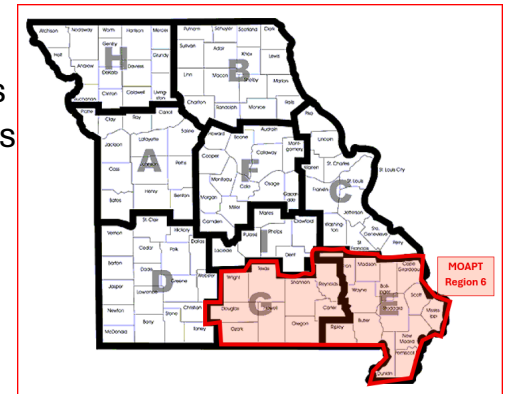


Serves as the Director of Student Services for the Poplar Bluff R-I School District and is the newly elected Region 6 President of the Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation (MOAPT). Now in 25th year in education, Jon brings more than 16 years of experience in school administration and a well-rounded background that spans both instructional and operational leadership.

His career includes service as a Vocational Agriculture Education Teacher, Coach, School Bus Driver, Transportation Director, Elementary Principal, and High School Principal. In his current role, he provides district-level oversight of student transportation and leads student discipline efforts that extend beyond the building level, ensuring consistency, accountability, and student support across the district.

Under Jon's leadership, the Poplar Bluff Transportation Department has made significant progress in improving efficiency, communication, and student safety. Key initiatives include the implementation of routing software, GPS and navigation systems, a parent communication and bus-tracking platform, and ongoing technology enhancements across the transportation fleet. Jon places a strong emphasis on professional development and best practices, and the department has hosted multiple regional training opportunities in partnership with MOAPT, MSBA, TSA, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

One of Jon's most impactful accomplishments is the creation of the Transportation Department's Public Relations Committee. Now in its fourth year, this staff-led committee was established to strengthen community connections and highlight the vital role transportation plays in supporting students and families. The committee has led numerous community and student-focused initiatives, including Salvation Army bell ringing, local food pantry donation drives, and outreach activities for students. Participation is entirely voluntary and occurs outside regular work hours, reflecting the department's strong culture of service, pride, and teamwork.





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# MUSIC

Missouri United  
School Insurance Council

## Be Safe this Winter!

### Don't Slip Up!

#### Simple Winter Safety Tips to Prevent Falls and Overexertion

Written By: Stephanie German, Workers' Compensation Specialist

Winter introduces cold temperatures, icy conditions, and unique safety challenges. During **Winter Safety Month**, staying vigilant and proactive is essential to prevent seasonal hazards. Slips, trips, and falls—often caused by ice, snow, and wet surfaces—are the leading workplace injuries. Additionally, overexertion from shoveling, lifting, or working in the cold can result in strains, sprains, and serious health risks.

#### Watch Our Safety Video:

To illustrate these safety tips in action, we're sharing a short video titled "**Winter Weather: Avoiding Slips and Falls**." This video demonstrates best practices for preventing slips, trips, and falls during winter. Watch as each of the following recommendations is put into action.

#### Prevent Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips and falls are the most common winter injuries. Ice, snow, and wet surfaces increase the risk. Here's how to stay safe:

- Wear shoes or boots with good traction.
- Walk slowly and take small steps on icy or wet surfaces.
- Clear snow and ice from walkways. Use salt or sand for traction.
- Watch out for black ice and uneven ground.
- Walk around snow piles instead of over them.
- Use your arms for balance.
- Avoid carrying too many items at once.

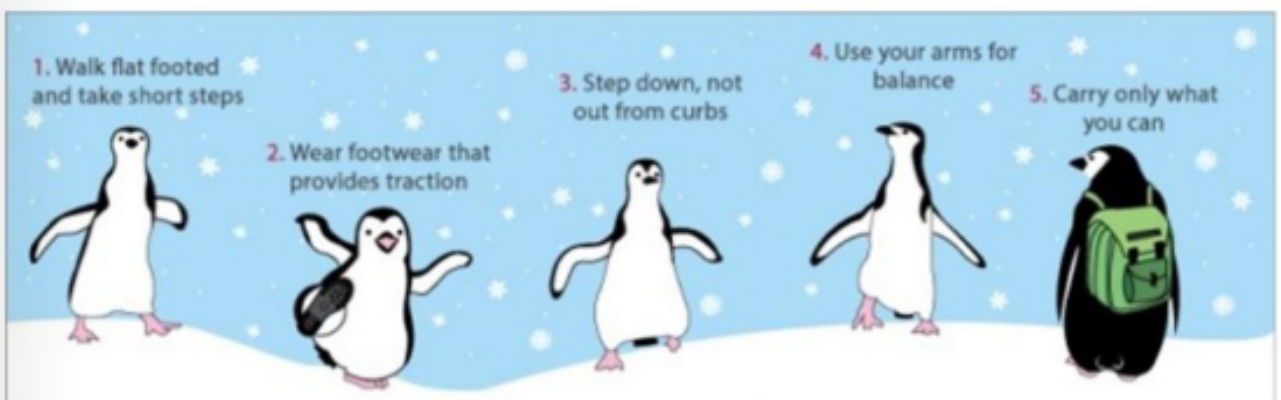
#### Avoid Overexertion

Shoveling snow or lifting heavy items in cold weather can strain your body. To prevent injuries:

- Warm up before shoveling or lifting.
- Bend your knees and keep your back straight when lifting. Avoid twisting.
- Take breaks often to avoid fatigue.
- Drink water—even in cold weather.

#### Stay Alert and Work Smart

Winter safety is everyone's responsibility. Slow down, stay aware, and use these tips to keep yourself and others safe. A few simple precautions can make the season safer and more productive.



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Missouri Association of School Business Officials  
(MoASBO)

### Did you know?

MOAPT is a partner with **Missouri Association of School Business Officials (MoASBO)**

Because of this partnership, **MoASBO is extending their *member* registration rate to all Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation (MOAPT) members** for the Spring Conference April 26-29, 2026

### MoASBO Spring Conference Registration Rates

- \$245 – Advance (through Feb. 28, 2026)
- \$295 – Regular (March 1–April 25, 2026)
- \$365 – Onsite (April 26–29, 2026)

Watch for an email from MoASBO with full conference details.

Questions? Let us know.



## Encouraging Transportation Leaders' Well-being

The world moves because of the work you do. Every day, you manage the complex infrastructure, logistics, and innovations that keep our communities connected and our economies thriving. It is a role that demands constant vigilance, rapid problem-solving, and a high level of responsibility.

Because so much relies on you, I want to share a vital reminder: **The most critical piece of equipment in our entire transportation network is you. Prioritizing Your Well-Being!**

In an industry that never stops, it is easy to put your own needs last. However, true professional excellence is unsustainable without personal health. Taking care of yourself is not a luxury; it is a prerequisite for leadership.

- **Physical Vitality:** Our industry often involves long hours and high-pressure environments. Prioritize rest, movement, and nutrition. When you are physically charged, your ability to react to crises improves tenfold.
- **Mental Clarity:** The mental load of managing complex systems can be heavy. Take the time to unplug and reset. Whether it's five minutes of quiet reflection or a weekend completely off the grid, your mind needs "preventative maintenance" just as much as our vehicles and infrastructure do.

### Ready for the Road Ahead

The landscape of transportation is changing faster than ever. From technological shifts to global logistical challenges, there will always be obstacles. Being "ready for all that may come" doesn't mean having every answer right now—it means maintaining the **internal capacity** to handle those challenges when they arrive.

Stay focused on your "why." When the noise of the day-to-day becomes overwhelming, reconnect with the core mission of our association: safety, connection, and progress.

### Staying Positive and Focused

Optimism is a strategic advantage. A positive mindset allows you to see opportunities where others see only dead ends. By staying focused on solutions rather than setbacks, you set a tone that inspires your team and ensures our industry continues to move forward.

Thank you for your dedication, your resilience, and your tireless work. Please remember to lead yourself with the same care and excellence with which you lead the world.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and keep moving forward.

### Tony Hatfield

Director of Transportation Camden R-III Schools & MOAPT Region 4 Director



# MAPT AWARDS & RECOGNITION

★ Help Us Shine a Light on Missouri's Best! ★

We all know someone in student transportation who goes above and beyond — the quiet hero, the problem-solver, the encourager, the “gets it done” person.

Now's the time to lift them up.

Nominate a standout for a 2026 MOAPT Award

Celebrate their hard work and impact

Help us honor the people who keep Missouri students safe every day

[Click the links below:](#)

[Administrator of the Year](#)

[Distinguished Service Award](#)

[Continuing Education Grant](#)

[School Bus Driver of the Year](#)

[Heroism Award](#)

[Hall of Fame](#)





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# 2025-2026 Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation School Bus Safety Poster Contest

Theme:

## "Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes"

### 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., 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 logos (on buses) should be removed from all CAD submissions.

**The theme:** (*Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes*) must be included in the poster design as shown with no modifications.

**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.

**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.

### Divisions

Division 1:	Grades K-2
Division 2:	Grades 3-5
Division 3:	Grades 6-8
Division 4:	Special Ed K-12
Division 5:	CAD K-12 (Computer Aided Drawing)

### Awards/Winners

**Overall Winning Submission: \$500.00**  
The winning submission for each division will receive the following:  
1<sup>st</sup>: \$100.00  
2<sup>nd</sup>: \$50.00  
3<sup>rd</sup>: \$25.00  
The submitting school/teacher will be contacted for guidance how MAPT should present the award. Award may be presented to either school, class, program, student or other.

**Submissions must be received by MOAPT by April 3, 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 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #1 - Grades K2
Grade _____ Age _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #2 - Grades 3-5
School _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #3 - Grades 6-8
Teacher's Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #4 - Special Education (Grades K-12)
Teacher's Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #5 - CAD (Computer Aided Drawing)
School Phone Number _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Division #6 - International Entries
School Address _____	
City _____	<b>Do not place this information on the front of the poster.</b>
State _____ Zip _____	<b>Display on the back only!</b>
Student's Home Address _____	
City _____	<b>All fields must be completed!</b>
State _____ Zip _____	

# The Official Publication of the National Association for Pupil Transportation



Click here to  
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January 2026  
Issue

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schoolbusride.com

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**Registration  
Now Open**

# Certified School Bus Driver Trainer Program

“Train the Trainer”



**MOAPT is excited to offer the Certified Driver Trainer Program this Spring!**

The MOAPT program is in collaboration with DESE and NAPT

More details are on the way.

With the Missouri Safety Center no longer providing this program, MOAPT is stepping in to ensure our districts still have convenient, flexible, and accessible training options across the state.

## **About the MOAPT Program:**

- It's split into **three phases** to cut down on travel and lodging costs
- Offers **multiple session options** so participants can choose dates, times, and locations that fit their schedules
- Combines online learning, live webinars, and in-person instruction

## **2026 Timeline:**

- **Phase 1 – Online:** March / April
- **Phase 2 – Webinar:** April / May
- **Phase 3 – In-Person:** May / June

**[MOAPT Certified Driver Trainer Website](#)**

## Transportation Formula:

This calculation is based on 2024-25 school year data submitted by the district on the state transportation aid documents included in Part IV of the Annual Secretary of the Board Report (Application for State Transportation Aid, School Bus and Facility Depreciation Schedules). Calculation documentation can be found linked on the payment transmittal.

The percent of reduction to the calculated entitlement computed for the FY 2026 calculation is shown below. This reduction percentage represents the amount the entitlement exceeded the appropriation and will fluctuate from month-to-month as revisions are made to individual school district data. The A and B factors are reflected on each district's Summary Transportation Report found on the payment transmittal.

The percentage reduction and the A and B factors are as follows:

A Factor = 5.438379

B Factor = -1.414751

Reduction Factor = **5.035893%**

Proration Percentage = 94.964107%



## Ridership List

The second ridership list for the current school year must be finalized on the second Wednesday of February (February 11, 2026). This list should be a compilation of the students' names that regularly ride the bus from the beginning of the second semester to the February count day and should identify which students are eligible for state transportation aid (those living one mile or more from school) and those ineligible for state transportation aid (those living less than one mile from school).

The ridership list should not be a listing of all students who are eligible or ineligible to ride the buses nor should it be a listing of only those students riding on the count day but should be a listing of students regularly riding the buses. A student should ride the bus a minimum of once a week to be considered a regular rider.

## Parking Changes that will Impact School Bus Parking in Jefferson City

Parking Changes will impact school bus parking in Jefferson City due to the closure of the Madison Street Parking Garage, East State Street near the Governors Mansion has been re-zoned as permit parking only in order to accommodate those who have paid for parking in the now closed Madison Street parking garage.

School buses may park on the 400 blocks of Broadway, Washington, Jefferson, Madison or Monroe. These are metered spaces, but if the driver remains with the bus they do not need to pay the parking fee.

We are working with the City to create a map showing the allowable parking areas for buses and will forward that in future memos. If you have any questions, you can contact the Municipal Parking Division at 573-634-6473 or email at [ParkJCMO@municipalparking.com](mailto:ParkJCMO@municipalparking.com).

## Minimum Standards of School Buses

All school buses in the state of Missouri must meet the [minimum standards](#) for the year they were manufactured. When bus bids are solicited, be sure to include a statement to this effect so that vendors know that their buses must meet these standards and be sure to inspect the buses when taking delivery. [RSMo 304.060](#), outlines the responsibility of the state board to enforce the regulations regarding the design and operation of school buses. These standards apply to all school bus including electric, propane and diesel buses and it is imperative that districts remain diligent regarding the minimum standards for all buses they purchase.

## Drug and Alcohol Clearing House

The following information is from the DOT website:

The [Clearinghouse](#) is a secure online database that will give employers, the FMCSA, State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs), and State law enforcement personnel real-time information about commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders' drug and alcohol program violations. An act of Congress directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Clearinghouse.

The [Clearinghouse](#) will enable employers to identify drivers who commit a drug and alcohol program violation while working for one employer, but who fail to subsequently inform another employer (as required by current regulations).

- The Clearinghouse will also require the following:
- Employers will be required to query the Clearinghouse for current and prospective employees' drug and alcohol violations before permitting those employees to operate a CMV on public roads.
- Employers will be required to annually query the Clearinghouse for each driver they currently employ.

# 🔥 Special things to Look Forward to with MOAPT!

More details coming soon — stay tuned!

## Special Member Webinar

- February 3 & 5
- Special Webinar Event
- Featuring: Kevin Daniel – *Fired Up!* 🔥

Get ready for two powerful sessions that will **motivate you, recharge you, and push you across the goal line** as we head into Spring. Don't miss this boost of energy and inspiration!



[Click Here to Register for Member Webinar](#)

## ★ Special MOAPT–NAPT Joint Academy

April 30 & May 1 • St. Louis

- **Back by popular demand!**
- Built for **current and future leaders** in student transportation
- A **power-packed two-day academy** with tools you can use right away
- Registration capacity is limited – Small group setting
- Open to **MOAPT and NAPT members nationwide**
- Last year we welcomed members from **7 different states**

Get ready to learn, grow, and lead with confidence.

**Don't miss this leadership experience!**



Tools for today's and tomorrow's leaders

[Registration opening soon](#)

# School Bus Driver Safety Competition

June 18<sup>th</sup>-June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Jackson MO

Hosted by: Jackson R-2 School District

Check-in: South Elementary, 1701 S Hope St, Jackson, MO 63755

Driving Course: Jackson High School, 315 S Missouri St, Jackson, MO 63755



2026 Theme  
NASCAR

**For more details and registration Click the links below**

[Safety Competition Website](#)  
[Registration Site](#)

**or contact**

Keith Henry  
Chris Dew  
Carol Woods

816-806-0226  
314-704-3863  
573-243-9507

[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)  
[cdew52@yahoo.com](mailto:cdew52@yahoo.com)  
[cwoods@jr2mail.org](mailto:cwoods@jr2mail.org)

**Register by May 15 to ensure you get a competition Shirt**

# 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Show

July 7 - 10, 2026

University Plaza Hotel & Convention Center  
Springfield, MO



For more than six decades, MOAPT has brought together Missouri's student transportation professionals to **learn, connect, and grow**. Since our first conference in 1965, this event has become one of the **largest and most respected state pupil transportation conferences in the nation**.

This conference is designed for **every level of your transportation team** — from **drivers, dispatchers, trainers, mechanics, and technicians** to **directors, supervisors, and administrators**. No matter your role, **everyone will benefit from attending**.

This year's conference offers a valuable opportunity to:

- Learn from industry leaders and peers
- Explore best practices and new ideas
- Connect with colleagues from across Missouri
- Engage with vendors and partners supporting student transportation

We look forward to welcoming you to **Springfield, Missouri**, for another informative, collaborative, and memorable event as we continue advancing excellence in pupil transportation.

We can't wait to see you there!

Take advantage of  
**"Early Bird" Registration**



Registration Rates		Early Bird	Registration	Extended Registration
Option		Jan 19 - Feb 27	Mar 1 - May 31	June 1 - July 7
A	Full	\$ 310.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 410.00
B	One-Day	\$ 210.00	\$ 260.00	\$ 310.00
C	Guest Full	\$ 150.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 260.00
D	Guest On-Day	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
F	Trade Show Only,	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 100.00

# Tips

Change is constant, and we're learning together. MOAPT will continue to share helpful tips to support compliance and effective operations. If you have something that's working well, let us know so we can pass it along.

## FMCSA

### Notice of Non-Use Training Providers

FMCSA does not set a specific time-based recertification schedule (like yearly or every few years) for Training Provider Registry (TPR) listings. Instead, training providers must **continue to meet eligibility requirements and self-certify compliance** in order to remain listed. If they fail to maintain those standards, FMCSA *may remove them* from the registry based on compliance issues.

In practice, **FMCSA has been enforcing compliance** by sending notices to providers that are **inactive** (no submissions in 12 months) or **unresponsive**, and requiring those providers to respond or risk removal.

**Be sure to check that your TPR is still active if you have not trained in the previous 12 months**

## FMCSA

### Clearinghouse Queries

As a transportation provider, Clearinghouse queries are required at hire and every year for CDL drivers.

Do you **review** the results, or just **file** them?

**Reviewing queries matters.** It confirms drivers are legally qualified, flags drug or alcohol violations early, and helps keep unqualified drivers off the road. It also protects your district from fines, audit issues, and liability—and shows due diligence if an incident occurs.

Here is an example from a recent query that showed an issue: Driver not Verified

Query Status: **Driver not verified** (1/2/2026 7:03:49)

Conducted By: Jared Richmond | Query Type: Limited | Query Submitted: Bulk Upload

Query Result: **Driver Not Prohibited**

Query Status: Completed (1/2/2026 7:03:48)

In this example there was an error in the driver license entry, and all was good once corrected.

**Be sure to review your queries**

## DESE

### Non-Compliant Vehicles 12/15 Passenger Vans

Driver shortages are pushing districts to look beyond the yellow school bus, but Missouri law is different from neighboring states in what vehicles may be used. Some vendors are promoting 12/15-passenger vans with seats removed as "school ready." In Missouri, these vehicles are **not** school ready. Removing seats or self-certifying capacity does not change the vehicle's legal classification.

**Here is what the experts say:**

"The seating capacity of a vehicle is determined by the manufacturer's original design and certification, not by the number of seats currently installed."  
— NHTSA Interpretation Letters

"Post-manufacture modifications such as seat removal do not alter the vehicle's compliance obligations or safety risks."  
— NHTSA Guidance on Vehicle Alterations

"Modifying seating does not change the inherent safety risks or regulatory classification of the vehicle."  
— FMCSA Regulatory Interpretation

[Click Here for More Information](#)



### **Board Meeting Dates**

April 9, 2026

July 10, 2026

**All Members are Invited!**

For details on attending,  
please reach out to MOAPT.

## **2026 School Bus Safety Poster**

- Over \$3,000 in prizes; overall winner receives \$500!
- Link: [MO Safety Poster Contest](#)
- Must be received by MOAPT by April 3, 2026



## **2026 Missouri School Bus Safety Competition**

- June 18 & 19, 2026
- Jackson MO
- Revised Schedule – Check it out [Click Here](#)

## **61<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Show**

- July 7 – 10, 2026
- Springfield MO
- Registration will open by January 1, 2026 – watch for more information

## **MO Technician and Inspector Training**

- July 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Held in conjunction with the annual Conference and Trade Show