



Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation

**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**2025**

# MOAPT's New President-Elect



**Cindy Bultemeier** is the Assistant Director of Transportation for the North Kansas City School District and the President-Elect for MOAPT. She began her transportation career in 1999 as a school bus driver and has spent the last 25 years serving students, families, and staff in roles including Router, Student Liaison Coordinator, and Assistant Director. She became a Certified Director of Pupil Transportation this past September.

Cindy is deeply committed to elevating transportation professionalism across Missouri. What motivates her the most is the opportunity to support employees and create an environment where they feel valued, prepared, and supported. Transportation is the first and last district interaction many students have each day, and she believes deeply in fostering the importance of ensuring that the transportation experience is safe, welcoming, and consistent.

In Cindy's free time she loves to spend time with her family, especially her two granddaughters, Mileeah and Eliza. Her commitment to service extends beyond transportation and you will often find her volunteering throughout the Kansas City region, supporting programs that strengthen schools, families, and the community.



Cindy is committed to building a strong, connected transportation community across Missouri and she is honored to serve as President Elect of the Missouri Association of Pupil Transportation.





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## Show-Me Zero Plan

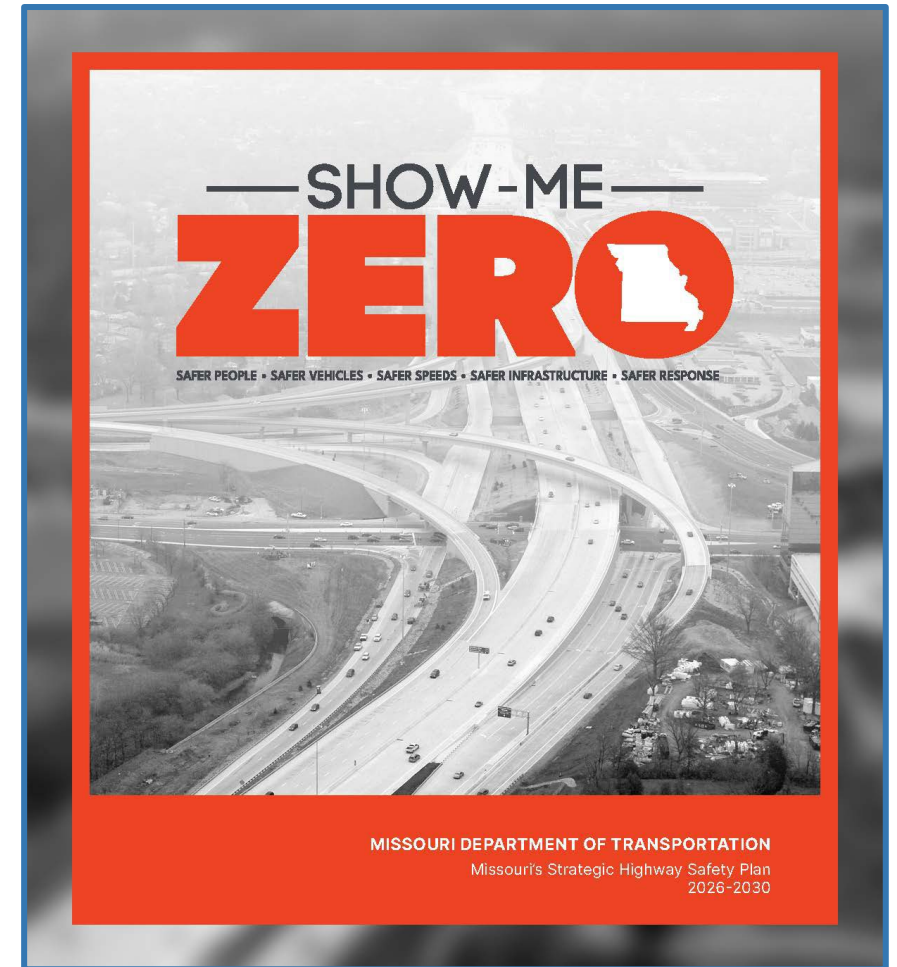
Are you from Missouri? Is your hometown Auxvasse, Mound City, or Edina? Did you grow up in Highlandville, Winona, or Sturgeon? There are dozens of towns like these in Missouri that boast populations right around 1,000.

Could you imagine if one of these towns were to suddenly disappear? What if about 1,000 people were just gone?

In a way, this does happen every single year.

On average, about 1,000 people die on Missouri roads annually. And that's actually an improvement over previous years. We shouldn't rest until a problem of this magnitude is solved.

Show-Me Zero is the Show-Me State's (Missouri's) current strategic highway safety plan for 2026-2030 to steadily decrease fatal and serious injury crashes for all users of the Missouri transportation system. It provides a candid view of Missouri's roadway safety problems and everyday solutions that anyone can do to help alleviate our crash problem. To read the full plan, visit <https://www.savemolives.com/mcrs/show-me-zero>.



# 30K+

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## 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

It only takes a few minutes, and your nomination could make someone's entire year.

👉 [Nominate someone today!](#)

Let's recognize the people who make our industry stronger.



## Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation

P.O. Box 1222  
Columbia, Mo 65205  
(816) 806-0226

[www.moapt.org](http://www.moapt.org)

### 2026 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is to honor MAPT members who have exhibited outstanding leadership and professional conduct in the school transportation field and in the district they represent. The award also recognizes leaders who have contributed to the advancement of pupil transportation supervision as a profession on a continual basis. Several criteria have been developed for this award and are listed below.

Guidelines for the MAPT Administrator of the Year Service Award are:

1. Candidate must be a member of MAPT, Professional Status.
2. Candidate must have at least 5 years of experience in pupil transportation or a related field.
3. The candidate must be in an administrative, managerial, or supervisory capacity and actively engaged in the daily operation of pupil transportation.
4. The application must specifically include justification for the award in the following areas:
  - Leadership Role ... Position Related or Community-Related
  - Achievements
  - Special Projects
  - Activities
  - Any other pertinent information
5. Candidate must be able to show service to others outside their organization in the pupil transportation field.

If you know someone deserving of this award, please nominate him or her by completing the form below. Please include a brief written statement about your nominee's qualifications for this award.

**CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MAY 1, 2026**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School /Contractor \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_ # Years of Experience \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS to:

**Mail:**

MAPT  
PO Box 1222, Columbia MO 65205

or

**Email**

[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)



## 2026 Conference Continuing Education Grant Nomination – Application

MOAPT would like to help those wishing to continue their education to advance their career in student transportation. This grant provides the winner with complimentary registration and lodging to attend the next Conference and Trade show after winning.

Guidelines for MOAPT Continuing Education Grant Award are:

- Person nominating candidate's must be an MOAPT member and candidate may not have been the recipient of the award the four (4) preceding years.

### Candidate Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

School District/Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### If you are nominating a candidate, complete the information below about yourself

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Signature Title/Position

Relationship to Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### Submission

On the reverse side or a separate piece of paper describe your and/or the candidates' professional goals/objectives and how the MAPT Conference Continuing Education Grant will help you/the candidate attain these goal/objectives.

Submit this application and any supporting documentation by **May 1, 2026**, to:

#### Mail:

MAPT  
PO Box 1222, Columbia MO 65205

#### Email

[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)

# 2026 MOAPT School Bus Driver of the Year



We know each year many drivers go above and beyond the call to duty. We would like to hear about them and if selected recognize them in a special way in front of their peers.

## Nominee Eligibility Requirements:

- Does not have to be a member of MOAPT
- Must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in pupil transportation or related field
- Must have no chargeable accidents in the past three (3) years.
- Must have exemplary interactions with parents and students.
- Must go above and beyond in their actions for school bus safety.

## Nominee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Questions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ # of years driving a school bus
- \_\_\_\_\_ # of years driving a school bus without a preventable/chargeable accident

## Reason/Justification

Why the nominee should be considered for the 2026 MAPT School Bus Driver of the Year. Please include any positions held, achievements and community activities that serve to promote the safe school bus transportation. Use reverse side or another piece of paper.

## Driver Statement

The statement from the nominee explaining how they feel about their position must be included

## Nominator Information

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ School District/Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Submission

Submit questionnaire and supporting documentation by **May 1, 2026** to:

**Mail:**  
MAPT  
PO Box 1222  
Columbia MO 65205

**Email:**  
[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)



## Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation

P.O. Box 1222  
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### Heroism Award

The Heroism Award is intended to recognize appropriate acts of heroism demonstrated in the school transportation industry. Those eligible for nomination include any person who is either directly or indirectly involved with saving a life or lives.

The lifesaving action must:

- Been performed by a person directly involved in the school transportation industry.  
-OR-
- Performed by a person directly involved in the school transportation industry (i.e. students or bystanders), the action must directly affect the school transportation operation/program

Guidelines for Nomination:

Acts of heroism for each award year will be based on heroic actions performed any time during the three (3) preceding calendar years.

Selection Criteria Includes:

1. Threat to one's own life
2. Number of lives saved
3. Impact on school transportation industry
4. Impact on individual's operation/program

If you know someone deserving of this award, please nominate him or her by completing the form below. Please include a brief written statement about your nominee's qualifications for this award.

**CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS IS MAY 1, 2026**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School /Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ # Years of Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS to:**

**Mail:**

MAPT

PO Box 1222, Columbia MO 65205

**Email**

[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)



## 2026 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The MOAPT Distinguished Service Award was established to recognize an individual who has performed exemplary service on behalf of MOAPT at state and/or national levels. This award recognizes that one person each year, who exemplifies principles of high caliber leadership, that will ensure the pupil transportation industry's reputation for safe, responsible, and economical service to our passengers.

Guidelines for the MAPT Distinguished Service Award are:

1. Candidate must be a member of MAPT, Professional Status.
2. Candidate must have a minimum of 5 years of experience in pupil transportation or a related field.
3. Candidate must be in an administrative, managerial, or supervisory capacity and be actively engaged in the daily operation of pupil transportation.
4. Meritorious service must be directly related in pupil transportation:

If you know someone deserving of this award, please nominate him or her by completing the form below. Please include a brief written statement about your nominee's qualifications for this award.

**CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS IS May 1, 2026**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ School /Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ # Years of Experience \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS TO:

**Mail:**

MAPT

PO Box 1222, Columbia MO 65205

**Email**

[maptboard@gmail.com](mailto:maptboard@gmail.com)

# 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**

<input type="text"/>	Student Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #1 - Grades K2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #2 - Grades 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #3 - Grades 6-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #4 - Special Education (Grades K-12)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #5 - CAD (Computer Aided Drawing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Division #6 - International Entries
<input type="text"/>	Grade	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	Age								
<input type="text"/>	School	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	Teacher's Name								
<input type="text"/>	Teacher's Email	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	School Phone Number								
<input type="text"/>	School Address	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	City								
<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	State								
<input type="text"/>	Zip	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	Student's Home Address								
<input type="text"/>	City	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	City								
<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	State								
<input type="text"/>	Zip	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	Zip								

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

**Display on the back only!**

**All fields must be completed!**

# The Official Publication of the National Association for Pupil Transportation

NOV 2025 / SCHOOLBUSRIDE.COM

# SCHOOL **BUS**Ride

The Official Publication of the National Association for Pupil Transportation®

## How Zūm is Modernizing Student Transportation for Everyone

pt2

NAPT ACTS Recap p14

Click here to read the November 2025 Issue

### NAPT Announces New Strategic Partnership with PTSI to Deliver Online Professional Development Series (PDS)

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schoolbusride.com

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Ten years ago, Ritu Narayan, Founder and CEO of Zūm, set out on a mission to modernize the school bus system for all children — including her own

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On October 28, 2025, the National Transportation Safety Board released interim findings and recommendations regarding a serious school bus accident in Leander, Texas, in August of 2025

**10 NAPT Board Sworn in at NAPT ACTS**

The NAPT Board swearing-in ceremony occurred at the NAPT Annual Conference & Trade Show (ACTS) in Grand Rapids, MI on Saturday, November 1, 2025

**14 NAPT ACTS25 Recap**

This year's NAPT ACTS was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from October 31 through November 4

**24 NAPT Announces New Strategic Partnership with PTSI to Deliver Online Professional Development Series (PDS)**

This milestone was announced during the NAPT Annual Meeting at this year's NAPT ACTS, marking a major step forward in the evolution of professional development for the student transportation industry

**25 The Importance of Your Career**

It's essential to grasp all the factors influencing your employees, fleet, and district, along with the requirements set by regulators and emerging issues

By Molly McGee Hewitt, PhD, CAE

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**6 FROM THE NAPT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO**

By Molly McGee Hewitt, PhD, CAE

# 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

**Registration and full details will be released in January 2026. Stay tuned!**

**[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 = 5.489837

B Factor = -1.4462889

Reduction Factor = **4.768988%**

Proration Percentage = 95.231012%

### MO Propane Bus Grant

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE's) [Missouri Propane School Bus Grant](#) is now available for local education agencies (LEAs). The 2025 Missouri General Assembly made \$1,455,000 in funding available in FY 2026 for the purchase of qualifying propane-powered buses and infrastructure.

### School Bus Driver Seat Belt Use

5 CSR 30-261.010, RSMo (Requirements for the Operation of School Buses), requires school bus drivers to use their seat belt whenever the bus is in motion. Please verify compliance with this requirement within your school district.

### School Bus Safety Poster Contest

The 2025-2026 Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation (MOAPT) School Bus Safety Poster Contest has been announced. This years theme is "Safe Rides, Everyday Heroes".

Submissions must be received by MOAPT by April 3, 2026, and should be mailed to:

Missouri Association for Pupil Transportation  
511 E. Walnut #1222  
Columbia, MO 65201

More informaiton can be found on the [MOAPT poster contest website](#).

### School Bus Aisle Blocking

State Board of Education Rule 5 CSR 30-261.010 requires that school bus aisles not be blocked. As your district makes field trips and activity trips this year, please ensure that all school bus drivers know and adhere to this rule. The aisles must be free of any obstruction so the bus, if needed, could be evacuated quickly without difficulties caused by the aisles being blocked by trash cans, coolers, book bags, band equipment, or other items.

Click Box  
for more  
Information

# 🔥 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!



## ★ 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
- 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!**





### **Board Meeting Dates**

January 15, 2026

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