



2025 - 2026 TAPT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST GUIDELINES

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT) enjoys the opportunity to conduct the Texas School Bus Safety Poster Contest and to take part each year in the National School Bus Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT).

The purpose of this event is to promote school bus safety and offer opportunities for students to receive small scholarships and school board recognition.

Who May Enter the TAPT School Bus Safety Poster Contest:

- Any student enrolled in a public, parochial, or private elementary, middle, junior, or high school in the State of Texas. (Posters may not be drawn at home.) **NOTE...high school students are only eligible to participate in Divisions 4 or 5.**
- The Director of Transportation for the school district must be a current member of TAPT.

Divisions:

- 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). *Please Note: Division #5 - CAD 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 current poster contest theme as presented by the National Association for Pupil Transportation. Napt.org

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.**

The Contact Information page provided must be attached to the back of the poster.

Poster Specifications:

- The completed poster size must be 11" x 17".
- Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.
- Designs should be submitted on quality tag, poster illustration board or heavy paper. Construction paper may be used but winning entries must be mounted on quality tag poster.
- Lamination is not permitted and will **disqualify the poster.**
- There is no limitation on the use and number of colors.

- There is no limitation on the type of media -- such as print, crayon, felt pen, etc. -- used on the poster design.
- 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.
- **The drawing may not identify the school, district or student name in any way and may be cause for disqualification.**
- **Winning Regional Contest Posters may not be posted (social media, websites) with identifiable information until the State Contest has been completed and winners announced.**
- **We appreciate your cooperation so that all students have an opportunity to win based on talent and not popularity.**

Lettering and Drawing:

- The poster design may incorporate freehand letters only.
- Stenciled, pre-printed, 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.

Poster designs may not incorporate any **copyrighted characters** (i.e., comic and/or television characters), photographs, and magazine or newspaper illustrations.

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.
- At least a part of a yellow school bus must be present on the poster.

Do not place name, school, etc., on the front of the poster.

Provide contact information on the form provided on the back only. See last page...

An art instructor or art teacher should supervise all work.

When Can Posters Be Drawn?

Posters can be drawn anytime between **October 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026.**

Judging:

Criteria for the selection of award-winning posters are:

- Relationship of the poster design to the school bus safety practices. (Safety Impact)
- Originality of the poster and how the idea is expressed in the poster design. (Originality)
- Artwork and its execution. (Artistic Quality)
- Visual impact of the poster design. (Visual Impact)
- Theme illustrated exactly as required.
- No identifiable markings.
- TAPT and the Safety Poster Contest Committee have the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with all contest requirements.

Chapters will vote on Regional winners at the March Chapter Meeting.

Check with local chapter for date. (If the chapter does not hold a March meeting, then voting will take place at the February meeting.

1. Each school district will decide on the winning posters by Division.
2. Each district will submit the First Place winning poster from each Division to the Transportation Department to take to the local chapter meeting for submission.
3. Each Chapter will announce the planned date for voting on posters.
4. The District Transportation Director will submit the district level posters for voting at the chapter meeting.

- **Check with the Transportation Department for the date of the Chapter Meeting.**
- The Transportation Director will deliver the Posters to the Regional Chapter Meeting at which the members will vote on which posters will proceed to the State level for voting.
- If a chapter covers more than one Region the winning posters from each division for each region may be submitted for state competition.
- **Each Chapter meets at different times of the month – some as early as the first week of the month. Due to Spring Break, the March meeting date may be different or earlier.**

Contest Deadline: All First Place winning posters must be received by the TAPT Executive Director/TAPT Office from the Chapters by April 15, 2026.

Online voting will be made available to all TAPT Active level Members April 20-25, 2026.

ALL POSTERS MUST HAVE THE COMPLETED FORM PROVIDED BELOW TAPED TO THE BACK OF THE POSTER IN ORDER TO BE NOTIFIED.

Divisions:

- 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). *Please Note: Division #5 - CAD entries are eligible for competition within those respective divisions but are not eligible to be the Overall Contest Winner.*

Note: All posters and related intellectual property become the property of TAPT and 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.

NOTE: Save your posters digitally –

We encourage schools/teachers to take photos of each poster before you submit them for your own records.

The Winning posters will be posted to the TAPT.com website.

Chapters may post their winning posters on the individual regional chapter websites AFTER the state contest winners have been announced so that no poster is identifiable to maintain fairness and consistency and that votes are based on talent and not popularity. Thanks for your cooperation!

REGIONAL CHAPTER DEADLINE:

Most TAPT Affiliated Chapters will vote on the posters during the **March meeting** - depending on when they meet and consideration should be given to the time needed for the posters to be mailed and received in the TAPT Office in Kemah, Texas by **April 15, 2025**.

Chapters that cover more than one Region will vote on posters **from each Region** and submit First Place winning posters from each Region and for each Division. Each Region should have first, second and third place winners from each Division.

Chapters should plan to award a ribbon or other type recognition for poster submissions.

To locate information for your local affiliated chapter, please contact your District's Transportation Director or go to the TAPT About Tab. [Affiliated Chapters - Texas Association for Pupil Transportation](#). Or contact Poster@tapt.com or Marisa@tapt.com

First Place winning Posters from each Region/Chapter must be received in the TAPT office by: April 15, 2026, to qualify for state level voting.

TAPT School Bus Safety Poster Contest
PO Box 488
Kemah, Texas 77565

STATE LEVEL JUDGING: TAPT ACTIVE level Members will **vote online** between April 20-24 to select the state level winning posters.

The state level winning posters will be posted at www.tapt.com shortly after the online voting has been completed.

Judging:

Criteria for the selection of award-winning posters are:

- Relationship of the poster design to the school bus safety practices. (Safety Impact)
- Originality of the poster and how the idea is expressed in the poster design. (Originality)
- Artwork and its execution. (Artistic Quality)
- Visual impact of the poster design. (Visual Impact)
- TAPT and the National School Bus Safety Week (NSBSW) Committee have the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with all contest requirements.

Prizes for winners will be awarded 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

National Contest: The First Place winning posters for each Division must be either mailed or digitally submitted and received at NAPT Headquarters by May 15, 2026.

National Contest Infrastructure:

The National School Bus Safety Poster Contest is sponsored each year by the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT).

The 1st Place / Overall National School Bus Safety winning poster will be used to promote National School Bus Safety Week which is always the third week of October. Napt.org

Important Dates:

October 1, 2025 – Contest may begin.

Districts - Check with your Transportation Director to see when the director needs your posters.

February or March – Posters voted on at the Regional Chapter level

April 15, 2026 – All Posters must be received in the TAPT Office.

April 20-24, 2026 – Active level member online voting for state level poster contest

TAPT will announce the winners and post the winning posters at tapt.com.

May 15, 2026 – All posters must be received from each State at the NAPT Headquarters

October 2026 – The winning poster will represent National School Bus Safety Week

Revised 8-17-25

For more information, contact Marisa@tapt.com or Poster@tapt.com.

The completed form below MUST be secured to the back of the poster.

Thank you for participating and promoting school bus safety!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. This form must be securely attached to the BACK of the Poster.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

School Full Name: _____

District Name: _____ City: _____

Teacher Name: _____ Cell #: _____

Teacher email: _____

District website: _____

Transportation Director Name: _____

Transportation Director Email: _____

Superintendent Name: _____

Region ESC: _____ Poster Division: _____

Parent/Guardian name and cell phone number: _____

Other Contact Info: _____

For more information: contact poster@tapt.com or the TAPT office 281-549-6573.

Best Wishes!!!

Texas Association for Pupil Transportation
www.tapt.com