



General Guidelines

For The

School Bus Technician

Training and Skills Competition

www.americasbesttech.org

America's Best School Bus Technician Training and Skills Competition

This School Bus Technician's Competition developed by the *National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)* shall be for the purpose of determining *America's Best School Bus Technician*. This competition will require technicians to demonstrate exemplary skills in such areas as technical knowledge and diagnostic troubleshooting techniques. In addition to the competition there will be numerous training seminars provided throughout the event.

Awards

At the conclusion of the School Bus Technician's Skill Competition an Awards Reception will be held for all competitors. Awards will be presented to the first three places. The first place competitor will also be invited to attend this year's annual **NAPT Conference and Awards Banquet**. Expenses for travel and conference registration will be provided by an endowment from **Bus Parts Warehouse**.

Competitors

This competition shall be limited to one participant per state. All participants must be currently employed in a position requiring the regular/frequent maintenance and/or repair of school buses. Each competitor shall be responsible for fully understanding all rules and regulations relating to the competition.

Competition Levels

State Level - It is recommended that each state school bus transportation association sponsor a competition for school bus technicians. The winner from this competition would then qualify to represent their state at the America's Best competition.

If a state level competition is not held; individuals residing in that state may apply for entry into the competition. Should there be more than one applicant from an individual a state; all applications will be reviewed for acceptability and the Competition Committee will have the final selection approval.

National Level – Each year the *America's Best* competition moves to different venues as it is hosted by various companies involved in the school transportation industry. For specific information regarding the competition for this year or prior years, please check the *America's Best* website www.americasbesttech.org.

Commitment

Each state planning to be represented at the competition must notify the *America's Best* Competition Coordinator Bill Toulsey at bill.toulsey@farmington.k12.mi.us. **Notification and registration deadlines are posted on the website.**

Entry Forms

Entry forms will be required for all competitors. All entry forms must be completed in detail with appropriate signatures and submitted to the *America's Best* Competition Coordinator.

Competition

The *America's Best* Technician Competition will include two phases of competition:

1. Written Examinations – Fifty (50) percent of total score
2. Diagnostics/Troubleshooting - Fifty (50) percent of total score

The competitor's *total score* will be determined by combining the individual scores for each phase of the competition. All necessary tools, diagnostic equipment, and required safety equipment will be provided for use during the competition. Individual competitors will be required to follow standard safety procedures for tool usage and personal safety. Demerits may be assessed for any instance of not utilizing proper safety equipment and/or procedures.

1. *Written Examinations*

Technicians must be knowledgeable in all areas of school bus systems/components and must be capable of demonstrating proficiency based on technical knowledge. This portion of the competition will test the technician's knowledge as well as their ability to read, comprehend, and respond. The exam questions will cover the technical aspect of various items to include electrical systems, brakes, engines, suspensions, drive trains, and body systems. All topics will be relative to actual school bus applications. This examination will be prepared and administered by The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The typical exam will include fifty (50) questions to be completed in fifty (50) minutes.

2. *Diagnostic Troubleshooting*

Technicians must be capable of diagnosing, troubleshooting, and repairing various mechanical components found on school buses. To do this proficiently requires substantial mechanical knowledge and the ability to utilize troubleshooting techniques and equipment.

This portion of the competition will test the technician's ability to diagnose actual components/systems. There will be three (3) diagnostic stations to which each competitor will rotate. The stations may involve an actual vehicle or a bench test situation.

Tie-Breaker: In the event of a tie score in the final standings for positions first, second or third; a tie-breaker will be implemented to determine the winner. The tie-breaker shall be based on the total amount of time consumed in completing one (1) of the diagnostic stations. This tie-breaker station will be identified for the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The competitor with the lowest total time for those competitors with the tie score will be placed in the higher position in the final standings.