School Bus Safety Poster Contest
2026-2027 School Year Rules

The National School Bus Safety Poster Contest is sponsored each year by the National Association for Pupil Transportation, the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services and the National School Transportation Association.

The national contest is open only to winners of state/province contests or contests held by overseas US military installations. No other posters will be accepted.

The Kansas State Pupil Transportation Association (KSPTA) coordinates and administers the Kansas School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The Kansas State Department of Education School Transportation Safety Unit serves as a supporting partner by promoting the contest and distributing contest information statewide.

Please DO NOT mail posters directly to the National Association of Pupil Transportation as they must be judged at the state level first.

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!

STATE CONTEST - WHO MAY ENTER:

Any student enrolled in a Kansas public, parochial or other private elementary or middle school (plus high school for Divisions 4 and 5 only) may enter. Any Kansas student who is a member of a US military family stationed overseas may also submit artwork to the Kansas School Transportation Safety Poster Contest. A poster must win at the state level to be entered into the national contest.

WHEN CAN POSTERS BE DRAWN:

Posters can be drawn anytime between now and April 2, 2027. Posters must be received in Topeka no later than April 16, 2027. Posters received after April 16, 2027, will not be judged.

Categories:

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 #5 are eligible for competition within those respective divisions but are not eligible to be the overall contest winner at the national level.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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POSTER THEME:

Safe Miles = Big Smiles

- Every poster and slogan must harmonize with the 2026-27 poster contest themes.
- Contestants must illustrate the above theme only. The theme on the poster must be exactly as shown above and include all punctuation.
- If the theme is *not written exactly as shown*, it will be disqualified.
- 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.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELCTION OF AWARD-WINNING POSTERS:

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

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for each division as follows at the State level:

Each first-place division winner will receive a plaque and a check for $50. Their teacher (as listed on their entry form) will receive a check for $25 toward the purchase of classroom materials. State winners will be notified by May 15th and will be recognized at the Kansas School Transportation Safety Conference on June 3, 2027, in Wichita.

Prizes will be awarded for each division as follows at the National level:

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

The 1st Place/Overall winning poster will be used to promote the National School Bus Safety Week in October 2027. The NSBSW Committee has the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with all contest requirements.

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POSTER SPECIFICATIONS:

- **Completed poster size must be 11" X 17" or 12" X 18"**
- Posters may be illustrated on the vertical or horizontal axis.
- DO NOT roll or fold posters. They must be mailed/delivered flat. DO NOT place name, school, etc. on the front of the poster.
- 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.
- Cut paper/stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stencils) are 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; however, wood, glass or metal should not be part of the poster. Collage materials should not be used. Glued on pieces will eliminate the poster.
- Poster designs may not incorporate any copyrighted materials (i.e., comic and/or television characters), 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.

LETTERS & DRAWING:

- The poster design may incorporate freehand drawn letters only.
- Cut paper/stencils (freehand or pre-drawn stick-on-stencils) may not be used and will disqualify the poster.
- Lettering should be clearly legible, even if used as part of the poster design.
- Please refrain from having slogan lettering run off the edge of the paper.

SUBMITTING POSTERS FOR STATE JUDGING:

- DO NOT mail posters to The National Association for Pupil Transportation. Posters must first be submitted to State level judging.
- DO NOT roll or fold posters. They must be mailed/delivered flat.
- DO NOT place name, school, etc., on the front of the poster. Display information on the back only using the official entry card located on the last page of this document.
- Posters may be submitted any time and postmarked no later than April 16, 2027.
- The official entry form found on the last page of these instructions must be completed in its entirety and fastened to the back of the poster. Please print clearly. Please use scotch tape only on the corners of the entry form.

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Regional Poster Collection Locations

Submit posters to one location only. Posters may be mailed or hand delivered to any one of the following KSPTA Regional Collection Locations. Please do not submit duplicate entries to multiple locations.

Seaman USD 345 Transportation Department
Attn: Clinton Pepper
901 NW Lyman Road
Topeka, KS 66608

Ottawa USD 290 Transportation Department
Attn: Randy Winkler
513 W. Wilson Street
Ottawa, KS 66067

Mission Valley USD 330 District Office
Attn: Mary Hewes
P.O. Box 158
Eskridge, KS 66423

Goddard USD 265 Administration Center
Attn: Nina Gracy
201 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 249
Goddard, KS 67052

Quinter USD 293 District Office
Attn Rob Borger
601 Gove Street
P.O. Box 540
Quinter, KS 67752

Comanche County USD 300
Attn: Clint Darnell
P.O. Box 721
Coldwater, KS 67029

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Auburn-Washburn USD 437 Transportation Department
Attn: Brian Inloes
Shuler Education Center
5928 SW 53rd Street
Topeka, KS 66610

Ellinwood USD 355 District Office
Attn: Vyrl Brown
300 N. Schiller Avenue
Ellinwood, KS 67526

OFFICIAL CARD/ENTRY FORM

The Official entry card located on the last page of this document must be fastened to the back of the poster using scotch tape only. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

- DO NOT place this information on the front of the poster
- Display on the back only.

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM:

DO NOT PLACE THIS FORM ON THE FRONT OF THE POSTER

DISPLAY ON THE BACK ONLY

DO NOT GLUE THIS FORM - TAPE CORNERS ONLY

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Please complete and attach this form to the back of each poster in accordance with poster specifications noted in the contest rules. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Division #: ____

USD Number: _____ School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Student's Home Address: _____

City: _____ State:_____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s):_____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

This form must be completed in its entirety and attached to the back of the poster using scotch tape only. Entry forms missing information will be disqualified.