



General Guidelines

For The

School Bus Inspector

Training and Skills Competition

www.americasbesttech.org

America's Best School Bus Inspector

Training and Skills Competition

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

Awards

At the conclusion of the School Bus Inspector'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 **Zonar Systems**.

Competitors

This competition shall be limited to one participant per state. All participants must be currently employed in a position requiring the regular/frequent inspection 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 inspectors. The winner from this competition would then qualify to compete at the America's Best competition.

If a state level competition is not held; the director of the state's School Bus Inspection Program may select a representative from eligible school bus inspectors. Should this not occur; individuals residing in that state may apply for entry into the competition. In the event that there is 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* Inspector Competition will include two phases of competition:

1. Written Examinations – Forty (40) percent of total score
2. Vehicle Inspection - Sixty (60) 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 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*

Inspectors must be knowledgeable in all areas of school bus systems and components and must be capable of demonstrating proficiency based on technical knowledge. This portion of the competition will test the inspector's knowledge as well as their ability to read, comprehend, and respond. The exam questions will cover the inspection 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 structured utilizing the same question format as tests administered by The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The typical exam will include forty five (45) questions to be completed in fifty (50) minutes.

2. *School Bus Inspection*

Inspectors must be capable of visually inspecting school buses and all related components to identify early signs of component wear and deterioration. This inspection process is critical to insuring timely repair prior to failure. Working in this manner insures the continued safety of the students transported, eliminates vehicle down time, and reduces maintenance expenses. This portion of the competition will test the competitor's ability to inspect buses in a systematic and logical manner to insure that ALL defects (not just Out Of Service items) are identified and duly noted for repairs.

The inspection process will utilize three (3) buses. One bus will be used for the inspection of the interior, one for the inspection of the exterior/engine compartment, and one for the inspection of the undercarriage/tires/wheels. Competitors will rotate through all three buses to complete the full inspection process. The competitors will be looking to identify a total of thirty (30) "*must find*" defects previously identified by the competition staff. All defects identified during the inspections must be legibly noted on a generic inspection form.

At the request of the competitor, competition officials will provide assistance to turn on lights, apply brakes, and/or turn the steering wheel.

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 the Interior portion of the Vehicle Inspection. 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.