

Roadeo Handbook for Participants

2026



This is Subject to Change

2026 IAPT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ROADEO COMMITTEE

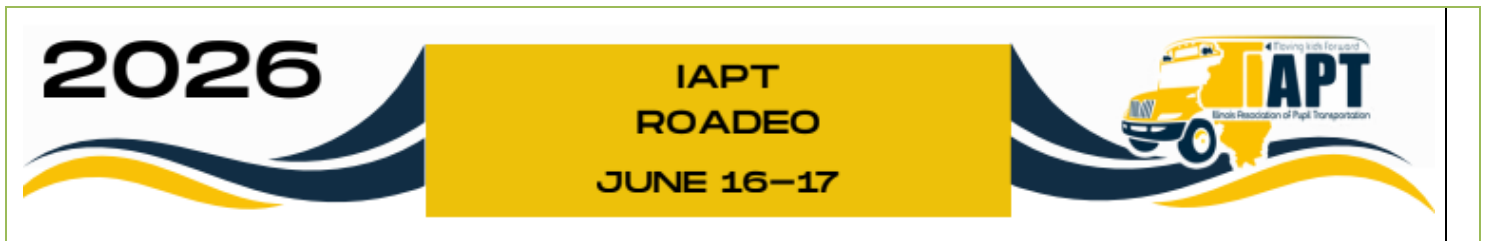
Angela Langley

IAPT – ROADEO Chair, Southern Reg. Dir.

Dawn Malleris

**IAPT - ROADEO Co-Chair, Central Region
Director**





Dear Contestant,

Welcome as a contestant in the annual I.A.P.T. School Bus Safety Roadeo. You should plan to register between the hours of 6:30 AM and 7:15 AM Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at the Embassy Suites - East Peoria, IL. Registration will be held in the Conference Center Lobby. There will be signs to direct you.

After registering, we will meet as a group in a meeting area where you will then receive final instructions for the ROADEO.

We will begin with Opening Remarks and then we will spend 30 minutes walking through the course. We will divide participants into 3 groups and send you to a designated location where you will start with either pre-trip, the driving course or taking the written exam. Once you complete your first station, you will then move to the next until you have completed all three stations. Participants would move in the order below based on which station you start with.

- Station 1: Written Test
- Station 2: PreTrip
- Station 3: Driving Course.

No one will be allowed to be on the course before / during / after competing, unless directed by IAPT Staff. Spectators will be allowed only on the perimeter areas. Lawn chairs and something for shade is suggested for Roadeo spectators in designated areas, as bleacher seating will not be available.

Each contestant should read and become familiar with the attached Rules and Regulations covering the 2026 School Bus Safety Roadeo. We want to remind you that the Roadeo Competition will be held regardless of the weather conditions.

Again this year, there will be a "Roadeo Rookie-of-the Year" plaque that will be presented at the awards dinner to the top-scoring driver competing in the Roadeo for the first time. The Awards Dinner will begin at 7:00 PM (If you would like to purchase additional Award Dinner tickets for your spectators contact Monica Smith, Executive Director for IAPT at www.email@ILAPT.net ASAP.)

Sincerely,

Dawn Malleris and Angela Langley
IAPT Roadeo Co-Chairs

IAPT SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ROADEO

Rules and Regulations

Have a Great Time and Good Luck!

<u>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE</u>	<u>SUBJECT TO CHANGE</u>
<i>Contestant - Registration / Check in</i>	Starting at 6:30 am
<i>Opening Remarks</i>	7:00 am - 7:15 am
<i>Driving Course Walk Through</i>	7:15 am - 7:45 am
<i>Written Exam, Pre-Trip, Driving Competition</i>	8:00- Until Completion of all stations
<i>Social Hour</i>	Tuesday Night at 6:00 pm
<i>Awards / Dinner</i>	Tuesday Night at 7:00 pm

- The contest rules shall apply even though they might differ from the rules and regulations the driver normally uses in his/her daily bus operation.
 - Contestants are to report to the sign-in area on time. The contestant will be disqualified if not checked in time.
1. The buses will be of the same make and model. Conventional IC Buses
 2. Contestants must be appropriately dressed, just as if you were driving your route. Uniforms are not required, as long as the attire is appropriate as stated in the current Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum. Any inappropriately dressed contestant will be disqualified. Dress comfortable as this event is held indoors and out. A contestant will not be permitted to wear any type of open-toed or open-heeled shoes, strapless shoes, sandals, or wear any type of jewelry that prohibits the safe operation of the school bus.
 3. All contestants are required to stay in the designated area until called upon by the ROADEO Staff. No one, including spectators, is allowed on the course.
 4. Contestants will be in groups during the ROADEO, each contestant is placed on their honor not to assist another contestant in any way. In the interest of fairness, contestants shall not discuss the course with each other or the spectators as this could result in disqualification.
 5. Spectators are allowed in designated areas only.
 6. It is assumed that there are students onboard the bus while you are competing, therefore, the contestant must conduct him(her)self accordingly.

7. All Illinois laws and guidelines found within the Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum as well as the Illinois CDL Study Guide are to be followed unless otherwise instructed by the ROADEO Staff. Failure to do so will result in deduction of points for the event. This includes, but not limited to the following:
 - o Headlights on
 - o Door closed (except at appropriate times)
 - o Seat Belt on
 - o Hazards on when backing

If these guidelines are not followed, it can result in disqualification of participants.

8. In all events, the bus doors must be closed unless rules and regulations of a ROADEO event require that the door is opened. Each contestant will be required to maintain proper driving position at all times, except when ROADEO rules and regulations require the contestant to leave the seat of the vehicle. Proper driving position is, being firmly in the seat with feet firmly planted on the floor or on the controls. The contestant will not be permitted to put his head out the bus window. Seat belts must be properly worn during the competition.
 9. Each contestant will be given adequate time to become familiar with the instrumentation and controls of the bus prior to beginning the operation of the vehicle to be driven in the contest.
 10. Any bus used in competition shall have a mirror system that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS 111). Mirrors should be adjusted to provide the driver vision that would normally be required for the safe operation of the vehicle, getting the maximum field of vision and see at least 200 feet to the rear of the bus. The driver should not lower their head below the highest point of the steering wheel to adjust the mirrors. Mirrors can only be adjusted within the recommended mirror box standards and not adjusted to just see the ground. During vehicle preparation before competition, drivers may use markers on the ground to adjust the mirrors, such as small cones, rulers, etc. Mirrors shall not be adjusted after being set by the driver and in compliance with FMVSS 111. Any mirror being adjusted after the driver has properly set their mirrors in the bus preparation period will result in disqualification from the Safety Competition
 11. If there is a mechanical issue with the bus during the course, the driver is to notify the onboard judge immediately who will determine if the problem warrants a change in the bus before continuing on.
 12. No changes will occur on the course set-up once competition starts. However, The Competition Chairpersons may disqualify any event during the competition and apply the point value equally to all contestants.
- Judges will bring any discrepancies to the attention of the ROADEO Chairperson(s) for review. The Chairperson's ruling is final.
 - No scores will be provided prior to the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday evening, June 16, 2026. No individual score sheets will be available at the close of the awards presentation.

- There will be an Awards Dinner at the end of the day of the ROADEO. If you are in need of additional tickets for the event, be sure you have contacted the Executive Director prior the start of the ROADEO to arrange payment and reserve your tickets. Winners will be announced and awards will be presented during the Awards Dinner. Each contestant will receive a Certificate of Participation suitable for framing, and each employer will receive a Certificate of Participation listing the contestants from their facility. First and second place plaques will be presented to the individuals as well as to their employers. In addition, there will be a “Rodeo Rookie-of-the Year” plaque that will be presented to the top-scoring driver competing in the Rodeo for the first time.

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

Any of the following may result in disqualification of a contestant:

1. Any misconduct on the part of a participant or spectator such as the following:
 - Unprofessional behavior
 - Speeding and/or unsafe driving on the course
 - Use of drugs
 - Use of any alcohol during or immediately prior to the competition.
2. Any contestant who knowingly accepts signals from anyone may be automatically disqualified. **No one other than competition judges and officials are allowed on the course. Spectators are required to stay in the spectator area and off of the course.**
3. Failure to wear a seatbelt properly will disqualify the driver. Placement of the shoulder harness behind the back is not permitted.
4. Lines / Course Markings on pavement:
 - a. Regardless of the size of the markings, the point at which is closest to the bus is the point used for judging.
5. Contact with Course Objects:
 - a. Unless otherwise noted, contact with the objects on the course will result in deduction of points.
6. Cones / Pylons:
 - a. If the cone or pylon is touched at any point, (base, center, and top) by any part of the bus, there will be a deduction of point.
7. Contestants who drive off of the course boundaries will be disqualified.
8. Driving without your headlights on.
9. A contestant is not allowed to place his/her head out the window. Making modifications to the driver’s seat in any way, other than the manufacturer’s standards, which could help the driver, will disqualify the driver and may disqualify any other driver prior to the discovery. Drivers may use a driving cushion. No attachments to the brake or gas pedal will be permitted.

IAPT SCHOOL BUS ROADEO

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE WRITTEN EXAM

This exam is given in order for the contestant to demonstrate their knowledge of the Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum as well as the CDL requirements. Do not be scared off, this is nothing that you should not already be doing or encountering on a daily basis during your operation of a School Bus. Make sure that you review your Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum as well as the CDL handbook.

The exam may be in the form of true, false and / or multiple choice questions.

IAPT SCHOOL BUS ROADEO

Potential Event Descriptions

Listed below are the descriptions of each of the possible events being held on roadeo day.

The **Mirror Station Test (Event)** is designed to see if you know how to have your mirrors adjusted. The test was created to prevent people from setting their mirrors specifically for the road course. You should set your mirrors as you would for a normal driving day. Contestants will be scored on what you can see in your mirrors. The test is performed by the driver adjusting their mirrors to where they want them and then pulling into the mirror station. In the mirror station you will be required to secure your bus by setting the parking brake, keep your foot on the brake and keep your hands on the steering wheel. You will then be asked to describe what you see from under each container that is placed in front, to the sides and to the rear of the bus. A judge will lift each container one by one. At this time you are to tell the inside judge what you see. The outside judge will move from container to container from one side of the bus to the other. It is your responsibility to follow the judges' movements and verbally explain what you see. Failure to secure your bus as described above will result in a zero score for the test.

The purpose of the **Judgement Stop Line** is to see if you know where the front of your bus is. The object of this test is to get your front bumper as close to the line on the pavement without going over it. You will then need to secure your bus by applying the parking brake, put the bus in neutral, keep your foot on the brake and honk your horn. The outside judge will then measure the distance from your front bumper to the line.

The **Parallel Park** will test your ability to maneuver your bus in between objects and your backing ability in a confined space such as at the garage or in the bus lot. You will back from the front stop line into the Parallel Park area. You will have to use your turn signal and back into the coned area without going over the curb or hitting a cone. You will secure your bus as described above in the Front Stop line directions to notify the judges that you have completed your Parallel Park as if you were parking with the bus facing downhill.

The **Rear Stop Line** will gauge your ability to back a bus up to an object. You will continue directly from the Parallel Park into the Rear Stop Line. You will back your bus using your 4 way flashers and honk your horn to signal that you are backing and then position the rear bumper of your bus as close to the rear barrier/cones without hitting the barrier. You will then secure your bus as described above so the outside judge can then measure the distance from your bus and the barrier. You will then proceed to the next event.

The **Right Turn** will judge how well you use your mirrors on a turn. You are expected to get close to the cones without touching them, while entering and exiting the turn you will be scored where your outer dual tire is on the score pad that is on the ground.

The **Left Turn** will judge how well you use your mirrors on a turn. You are expected to get close to the cones without touching them, while entering and exiting the turn you will be scored where your outer dual tire is on the score pad that is on the ground.

The **Serpentine or reverse serpentine** will judge your distance and turning abilities, do you know the length of your bus, the pivot points. You will drive your bus through a row of cones. The station judge and following judge will watch to see if you bump into a cone. This simulates driving your bus down a crowded city street with cars parked on both sides of the road.

The **Offset Alley** is an event where you must maneuver your bus through two sets of cones that are "offset". Once again the cones are set up and the station judge and following judge will determine if a cone is touched. This is simulating driving your bus through a set of cars either entering or exiting a parking lot or a side street/alley that isn't in a perfectly straight line.

The **Diminishing Clearance** event is designed to judge your abilities of lining your bus up with a construction zone that has barricades that get narrower in width as you go through them, or a set of cars parked on opposite sides of the street that you are going in between.

The **Railroad** is simply to test your normal daily routine while crossing railroad tracks.

The **Student Pick Up / Drop Off** is to test your daily routine for picking up / dropping off students, you may have to cross the students to get on / off the bus or they might be on the same side of the street or both. You are expected to know the distance from the student and the curb when making your stop.

The **Tail Swing** is designed to see if you really know the length of your bus. I know you have all been trained to not hit things...but unfortunately things still get hit by the "Tail Swing" of the bus. We want you to hit the post that is next to a curb line with the black part of the bumper, not any other part of the bus. You also have to do it without crossing the curb line.

Post Trip/Walking Your Bus, as you know, is very important to find those sleeping students or lost items left on the bus at the end of your run / route. What do you do with them when you find them? This should be done after every route, without being told.

The **Curb Line Parking** is to test your ability to enter an area, then use reference points to pull along a curb without being too close or too far away.

The **Emergency Situation/Difficult Parent Scenarios** is to test your knowledge of bus evacuations by rescuing victims from a smoke filled school bus as well as following proper evacuation procedures as prescribed in the Illinois Professional School Bus Driver Training Curriculum. Also, this event allows you to de-escalate difficult parent situations.

The **Straight Line Backing** is to test your ability to back your bus in a straight line. This is similar to backing out of a one line street.

The **Backup Stall/Alley Dock/Right Hand Reverse** tests your backing abilities with regards to tight situations and without backing too far and hitting what is behind you like parking in a lot up against a fence. This event tests your depth perception as well.

The **Straight Line** is to test your abilities to keep the bus headed in a straight line. If you touch any of the markers, points will be deducted. The objective is to have your right rear dual pass between the markers without touching.

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