

VIRGINIA'S BEST  
TECHNICIAN'S COMPETITION

**PURPOSE:** An annual skills competition will be held to determine the “Best” School Bus Technician in the Commonwealth of Virginia to represent Virginia at the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) School Bus Technician’s Training and Skills Competition.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Competition is limited to participants from each School Division (or City/County/Contracted Maintenance Operation, responsible for school bus maintenance). All participants must be currently employed as a School Bus Technician (or equivalent title), working full time with primary duties of school bus maintenance and service.

**COMPETITION:** The competition will consist of a Written Exam and a Hands-On Exercise.

**Written Exam:** Technicians must be knowledgeable in all areas of school bus maintenance/repair and be able to demonstrate proficiency based on technical knowledge. The written exam will test the technician’s knowledge as well as their ability to read, comprehend, and respond. The written exam will consist of 50 questions and cover various technical topics relative to school bus applications to include electrical systems, brakes, engines, suspensions, drive trains, and body systems. Total time allotted for the written exam will be 45 minutes.

**Diagnostics Hands-On:** Technicians must be capable of diagnosing, troubleshooting, and repairing various mechanical components found on school buses. This requires not only mechanical knowledge, but the ability to use troubleshooting techniques and equipment. The diagnostics hands-on exercise will test the technician’s hands on ability of working on various components/systems. The diagnostics hands on exercise will consist of troubleshooting and identifying mechanical deficiencies in different school bus components/systems. Specific instructions/conditions for each of the diagnostic areas will be provided immediately prior to the competition. Technicians will be required to provide in detail, the cause of a specific defect and/or the proper techniques for correcting the defect. Total time allotted for each of the diagnostic areas will be 15 minutes. Participants must be prepared to work in a “shop environment” and be wearing proper clothing. (i.e. uniform and safety shoes).

**TIE-BREAKER:** In the event of a tie score, a tie-breaker will be implemented to determine the first, second and third place standings. The tie-breaker will be the shortest amount of time used to complete one of the diagnostic hands-on exercises. Prior to the start of the competition, one of the diagnostic hands-on exercises will be selected by the Technician's Competition Committee to be the timed event. In the event that a tie remains, the competitors who are tied will be randomly selected by the Technician's Competition Committee for first, second or third place.

**AWARDS:** Awards will be presented to the first, second and third place winners. The first place and second place winner will be asked to represent Virginia at the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) School Bus Technician's Training and Skills Competition in either the School Bus Technician or the School Bus Inspector category.