

**SUE SERINO**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



22 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
Phone: 845-486-2000

## **DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

February, 2025

Dear School Superintendent and Transportation Director:

Children are the future of Dutchess County, and ensuring their safety is our most important duty, one in which everyone has a crucial part to play. Each day, school bus drivers across the county take on the important responsibility of safely transporting students to and from school. Despite varying weather and road conditions, these drivers' commitment to serving the community and protecting children's safety remains steadfast.

To recognize the hard-working men and women who protect our students every day – and to raise awareness in our community about the importance of school bus safety – the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board is now accepting nominations for the 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year Award. This annual award honors a school bus driver employed by a public school district or private contractor, who demonstrates an exceptional safety record and professionalism, reflecting their dedication to student safety. **Nominations will be accepted through April 1, 2025.**

I urge you to nominate drivers who are passionate about ensuring safe transportation for students and who serve as role models for their colleagues. Included are the criteria for nominees and instructions on how to submit nominations for drivers in your district. Nominations will be evaluated, and the selected winner will be recognized by representatives from the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board and the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the New York Association of Pupil Transportation on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Dutchess County is proud to acknowledge the hard work your drivers contribute to their students and community each day. Your nominations will not only recognize a driver who makes a difference in students' lives, but also help us uphold the highest standards in the profession. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

Sue Serino  
Dutchess County Executive



## ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

PO Box 1800  
Kingston, New York 12402-1800  
(845) 340-3414  
Fax: (845) 340-3409



**Jen Metzger**  
County Executive

**Eric Kight**  
Chair

February, 2025

Dear School Superintendent and Transportation Director,

The Ulster County Traffic Safety Board is pleased to announce that it will begin accepting applications for the 2025 School Bus Driver of the Year Award! This annual award honors a school bus driver employed by a public school district or private contractor, who demonstrates an exceptional safety record and professionalism, reflecting their dedication to student safety. Nominations will be accepted through **April 1, 2025.**

I urge you to nominate drivers who are passionate about ensuring safe transportation for students and who serve as role models for their colleagues. Included are the criteria for nominees and instructions on how to submit nominations for drivers in your district. Nominations will be evaluated, and the selected winner will be recognized by representatives from the Ulster County Traffic Safety Board and the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the New York Association of Public Transportation on Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ulster County is proud to acknowledge the hard work your drivers contribute to their students and community each day. Your nominations will not only recognize a driver who makes a difference in students' lives, but also help us uphold the highest standards in the profession. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

*Brian C. Slack*

Brian C. Slack, Coordinator of Traffic Safety

CC: Eric Kight, UC TSB Chair

**SUE SERINO**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



**EOIN WRAFTER, AICP**  
COMMISSIONER

**WILLIAM C. JOHNSON**  
ADMINISTRATOR

**DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

February 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

All Pupil Transportation Providers/Contractors

To Whom It May Concern;

In an ongoing effort to increase public awareness regarding School Bus Safety Issues the Dutchess and Ulster County Traffic Safety Boards are seeking nominations for the annual **“School Bus Driver of the Year Award”** (22<sup>nd</sup> in Dutchess and 16<sup>th</sup> in Ulster). The award recognizes School Bus Drivers who have exhibited an exemplary level of driver/passenger safety.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a school bus driver employed in either Dutchess or Ulster Counties, either by a Private Contractor or Public School District with an outstanding safety record and who also displays professionalism in his/her work habits.

**The Dutchess & Ulster County Traffic Safety Board’s request that the Chief Executive Officer of the Company or School District submit a nomination to the DCTSB prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

**Each application/nomination must include the following documentation;**

- ✓ Driver Abstract
- ✓ Length of employment  
(minimum of five (5) years experience as a School bus driver).
- ✓ Verified Accident History
- ✓ Road observation reports
- ✓ Verified complaint history
- ✓ Any safety awards from the district / company
- ✓ CEO’s Letter of recommendation

Nominations will be reviewed, and the winner will be chosen by representatives of the respective County Traffic Safety Boards, and the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the New York Association of Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) at their respective April meeting(s).

**The awards will be presented at “Operation Safe STOP” Press events to be scheduled April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Dutchess) and 24<sup>th</sup> (Ulster).**

For any additional information please contact the Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board at (845) 486-3602 or e-mail [trafficsafety@dutchessny.gov](mailto:trafficsafety@dutchessny.gov)

The annual School Bus Driver of the Year Award is intended to recognize a school bus driver for their dedication. Please nominate a deserving driver for this honor by completing the form below.



## **DUTCHESS & ULSTER COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARDS**

### **2025 "School Bus Driver of the Year" Award Nomination Form**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School District/Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Supervisor Submitting Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information, attach, and forward application/Nomination to:

*William C. Johnson, Awards Chairperson*

*626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603*

*E-Mail: [wjohnson@dutchessny.gov](mailto:wjohnson@dutchessny.gov) FAX: 845-486-3612*

*(Deadline for Applications/Nominations is: Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025)*

#### **Eligibility requirements:**

- Candidate must possess a valid CDL, with passenger endorsement, school bus endorsement (when applicable) and no points on their driving record.
- Candidate must not have been charged with a preventable/chargeable accident in the 12 months prior to the date of this Application/Nomination.
- If operation has more than one terminal, one driver from each terminal may be nominated.
- The nominee must have been employed for at least two full years with the employer submitting the nomination.
- At least 1 Photo of Nominee (in front/within a bus)

\_\_\_\_\_ # Years of School Bus Driving Experience (including as a sub driver).

\_\_\_\_\_ #Years driving a school bus without a preventable/chargeable accident

**\*Attach an Abstract** (within the 12 months prior to the date of this Application/Nomination)

**Additional/Optional:** Supervisor may attach any additional information which may help qualify the candidate and assist the Committee in making a sound decision (i.e. any Safety awards, outstanding achievements, number of consecutive years w/o chargeable accident, specialized training, Community/School involvement, participation in regional/state School Bus Safety Rodeos, letters of support/testimonials from Administrators, peers and/or parents.

- ✓ **Overall Excellence Demonstrated-** Reasons, observations, opinion for Driver's nomination including *special involvement with students, and exemplary actions taken by driver and relative to rider safety.*

---

---

---

---

- ✓ **Safety Training/Competitions-** describe *training/preparations above and beyond requirements* that stand out as preparing them to be a better/safer school bus driver (first-aid, CPR, defensive driving course, handling the special education and medically fragile student, etc.)  
Please provide documentation.

---

---

---

- ✓ **Driver's involvement in structured/training or mentoring others.**

---

---

---

**Participation/involvement Community/School events-** how it has contributed to their excellence as a driver and their nomination for this Award.

---

---

---

- ✓ A statement may also accompany each application from the driver explaining how they feel about their job.

---

Signature of Supervisor

Date

- **NOTE:** If the respective 2025 County winners represent a District or Private Bus Contractor that is a NYAPT member a decision will be made to collect additional endorsements/forms and coordinate submission of SBDY application to NYAPT prior to the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 deadline.