

WHY A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM?

The responsibilities placed on Directors of School Transportation have expanded and increased exponentially in recent years. Accordingly, it is more crucial than ever to strengthen the professional capacity and abilities of the men and women who are engaged in providing safe and efficient transportation of our school children.

School transportation professionals must be better equipped to take their place among other school leaders and enhanced training and education is the key to attaining the necessary level of excellence.

This Certification program is intended as an industry-based program that will draw not only on educational attainment, but also the kinds of experiences and resources that are unique to the field of school transportation. It will enrich the skills of the men and women who manage transportation operations and validate the knowledge and abilities that they bring to the job.



NYAPT

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FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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NYAPT

Professional CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



ABOUT SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS

Of necessity, the current educational environment concentrates on increasing learning and improved academic achievement. As a result, however, school support and administrative services may receive less attention because they do not deliver classroom or academic services. That is often the case with school transportation services that are responsible for daily delivering 2.3 million children to their school buildings and back home again safely.

In this environment, it is important to remember that School Transportation Professionals:

- operate a fleet of 50,000 school buses valued at over \$4.5 billion and manage the work of over 50,000 school bus drivers, plus thousands of school bus attendants/monitors, technicians, dispatchers, trainers and other transportation employees every day of the year.
- are responsible for ensuring that all 2.3 million student riders in New York State get to school and back home again safely and that their ride is comfortable and efficient.
- are accountable to their local taxpayers and school districts as well as to multiple state agencies, for ensuring that their bus fleet is in compliance with federal and state laws for their safe maintenance and operation.
- are required to ensure that school bus drivers and attendants/monitors are properly and adequately trained to do their jobs and are monitored by two state agencies to ensure that drivers are properly credentialed and meet federal and state standards.
- must ensure that every time a child steps onto or off of a school bus, that event is safe and secure for each child. They strive for *Excellence: One child at a time.*

OBJECTIVES OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

- To advance the qualifications and professional capacity of members of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation as integral partners in the education enterprise.
- To develop professional knowledge, growth and recognition that will enable our members to perform their duties responsibly and efficiently, as well as evolve as successful professionals.
- To provide a clear understanding of the disciplines and scope of duties included in the profession of School Transportation professional. This clarification will benefit the public, employers of our School Transportation professionals, school-based colleagues, and individuals working in and practicing the profession.
- To provide a means of demonstrating and validating the level of knowledge and skills attained and utilized by practicing School Transportation professionals.
- To establish a professional benchmark for practicing School Transportation professionals that will become the standard for ensuring that qualified professionals are in positions of authority and responsibility for transporting our school children.
- To offer a series of opportunities for motivated School Transportation professionals who seek career mobility and security.

TO APPLY FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION



Members of NYAPT who are interested in applying to complete the Certification process should review the program description materials as well as the program application. In order to apply for participation in the NYAPT Certification program, an individual must:

- have been engaged in school transportation for a minimum of five years, with at least one year in a supervisory position, or been engaged in related employment that meets the standards established by the NYAPT Peer Review Committee;
- have been referred to the program by a Chapter President in good standing with the New York Association for Pupil Transportation;
- be employed by a school district or a school bus contractor at the time of application;
- be of good moral character;
- be a member in good standing of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation; and,
- satisfy the specific rules and processes spelled out in the program specifications and application package.

NOTE: exceptions to these pre-qualifications may be made at the discretion of the Peer Review Committee.

For more information, please contact the NYAPT office at 518-463-4937, or go to the NYAPT website at www.nyapt.org and click on the Professional Development button to bring you to our School Transportation Certification page.

Remember: OUR FUTURE IS RIDING WITH US!