

Welcome to the 56th Annual Kansas School Transportation Safety Conference



Special Conference Event Info:

Wednesday

If you are attending the competition as either a spectator or a judge be sure to bring a lawn chair, wear comfortable clothing/shoes, any snacks/drinks you may want, umbrella (for shade if it's not raining), sunscreen and lots of enthusiasm for those competing on the course.

New this year, a special evening event is planned to allow you to more networking opportunities. We'll have snacks, games and some fantastic prizes to give away.

Thursday

The always popular vendor showcase will once again be on Thursday evening. This allows for a -one-stop-shopping experience to get all your questions answered firsthand from bus dealers to camera companies to student tracking software. We will ask that ALL conference attendees leave the conference foyer to allow vendors to set up.

Friday

Doors for banquet seating will open at 6pm and meal service begins at 6:30pm. We ask that dress for the banquet be business casual professional at a minimum. Our theme this year is "The Wild, Wild, West" so feel free to dust off those cowboy hats and boots and take part in the fun.

2026 KSPTA Conference Agenda

Tuesday, June 2 – DoubleTree Hotel

6:30 – 7:30pm Early Check-In for Conference Attendees
Early Check-In for Competitors

Wednesday, June 3 – Competition Day

(all events to be held at Maize Performing Arts & Aquatic Center, 1155 West Academy Ave)

5:00am Set up begins (KSPTA board members only)

6:00am Doors Open – Competitor and Judges Sign-In

7:00am Competitor & Judges Orientations
Course Drive Thru
Competition begins

11:00am Lunch Service Begins
Sponsored by: Bus Right

1:00pm Meal service ends

7:00pm It's Rodeo Time – join us for an evening of games and prizes (Salon I-III)
Sponsored by: Midwest Bus Sales, Shawnee KS

Thursday, June 4 – All Events at DoubleTree Hotel

7:00am Written Test for Competing Drivers – Multi Media Theater

7:30am Breakfast – registered conference attendees only
Breakfast Sponsored by: Samsara
Morning beverages sponsored by: BESI, Inc.

8:00am Conference check-in for new arrivals

8:30am KSPTA Business Meeting

9:00am Break

9:15am Opening Keynote Session – Bret Brooks
Indicators of Violence – (Salon I-III)

10:45am Break

- 11:00am Breakout Sessions – Choose One (1 hr. 15 min-hour session)
- 1) Legalities of Transporting Students with Disabilities – Bert Moore
(Salon I-III)
 - 2) Discussion on Death by Suicide ... What's Next?
(Consulate Ballroom)
 - 3) School Transportation Safety Q&A – Mitch Mellick
(Multi Media Room)
- 12:15pm Lunch – registered conference attendees only
Lunch sponsored by: Kansas Truck & Equipment
- 1:00pm-4:30pm *Special Extended Training Session* – You must pre-registered for this session. Limited to first 30 registrants. To receive certificate, you must participate in both the classroom training and hands-on modules. Total class time is 3 hours.
(Consulate Ballroom)
- Wheelchair Securement Train-the-Trainer – Trisha Nolen
- 1:30pm Breakout Sessions – Choose One (1hr 15min. session)
- 1) After the Crash/Incident – What Happens Next? – Mitch Mellick
(Salon I-III)
 - 2) Panel Discussion – Recruit, Hire, Retain School Transportation Staff
(Multi Media Theater)
- 2:45pm Break
- 3:00pm Keynote Session – Bret Brooks
Concealed Weapon Identification
- 4:30pm Break - we will ask that all conference attendees leave the conference foyer to allow vendors time to finish setting up
- 5:30pm-7:30pm Vendor Showcase
- Plan your own evening to create fun/team building events for your group. Or make plans for dinner with new friends you have made during the conference.

Friday, June 5 – All Events at DoubleTree Hotel

- 8:00am Conference Check-In for new arrivals
Breakfast – registered conference attendees only
Breakfast Sponsored by: Masters Transportation
Morning beverages Sponsored by: Midwest Transit Equipment
- 9:00am Opening Keynote Session – Bret Brooks
Hijacking (Salon I-III)
- 10:30am Break
- 10:45am Breakout Sessions – Choose One (1 hr. sessions)
1) State Radio Network – Mike Minnis & Jason Bryant
(Salon I-III)
2) You're the Coach...be the best...get the best – Sean Hollas
(Multimedia Theater)
3) Preparing for School Bus Inspections – Mitch Mellick
(Consulate Ballroom)
- 12:00pm Lunch – registered conference attendees only
Lunch Sponsored by: National Bus Sales
- 1:00pm *Special plenary Session* – Special Needs Bus Evacuation – Dennis Tate
3:00pm (Salon I-III)
- 3:00pm Break
- 3:15pm Closing Keynote – Eric Dannefer (Salon I-III)
Need name of program

(or conclusion of final speaker)
Closing Remarks and Announcements
(Salon I-III)
- 6:15pm Doors open for banquet seating – only if you pre-registered to attend
- 6:30pm Meal service begins