

*revised 01/23/26*

## **2026 NCPTA Transposium Course Descriptions**

**Advisory Board Meeting** – The members of the NCPTA Advisory Board meet to discuss the business of the association. Members are encouraged to attend. TAG has officially been dissolved, and all information and business will take place at this meeting. The meeting is open to all members and they may ask questions, but only board members are allowed to vote. Facilitator: Brian McClung, NCPTA President

**Ask the Field Guys** - This session is a review of defects found during school bus inspections this year and an opportunity for LEA staff to talk with the DPI staff that performed those inspections. Facilitators: NCDPI Field Consultants

**Best Practices: Tire Mounting, Match Mounting and Achieving a Smooth Ride** – Learn the correct method of mounting and installing tires to achieve the best ride and increase longevity. This session is presented by Michael Everhardt and Chris Anderson, Deri Curry from The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company

**Blue Bird Basic Electronics Meter Use and Technology for New Technicians** – This session is two hours.

**Blue Bird Propane Engine Orientation and Maintenance** –This is a two-hour session. Presented by: Mike Howell, Frank Barker and Kirk Burns

**Blue Bird and Rifled Air AC Class** –

This is a two-hour session. Presented by: Mike Howell, Frank Barker and Kirk Burns

**Blue Bird “Vision” Diagnostics and Practical Solutions** – This is a two-hour session.

**Bosch Common Rail Diesel (CDR Seminar)** – This seminar will provide a high-level overview of Bosch CRD systems with a specific focus on the Cummins 6.7 engine platform. The seminar will cover the complete fuel system from the supply side to the high-pressure components. You will learn how to accurately diagnose no start and drive ability conditions with confidence. The session is offered twice, see schedule.

The training will span two separate days, each with a dedicated two-hour session. Below is an overview of the topics that will be covered during the training:

- 1. Introduction to Cummins 6.7 Emission System:**
  - Overview of the Cummins 6.7 engine and its key components.
  - Understanding the role of the emission system in ensuring compliance with environmental standards.
- 2. Emission System Components:**
  - In-depth exploration of individual components within the Cummins 6.7 emission system.
  - Detailed explanations of how each component contributes to emission control and overall engine performance.
- 3. Diagnostic Procedures:**
  - Comprehensive guide to diagnostic procedures for identifying issues within the emission system.
- 4. Maintenance and Best Practices:**
  - Guidelines for routine maintenance to ensure the longevity and efficiency of the Cummins 6.7 emission system.
  - Best practices for optimizing performance while minimizing environmental impact.
- 5. Q&A Session:**
  - Dedicated time for participants to ask questions and seek clarification on any aspects of the training.

**BSIP - Bus Parts Inventory–Searching, Stocking, and Verification** - This class will focus on BSIP parts inventory, item search, new item application requests, and extension of the item to LEAs plant, items stocking, and verification of proper receipt. Presenter: Brandon Arrington

**BSIP Data Entry Tips/Best Practices** – Presented by Brandon Arrington

**BSIP - Fuel Receipt and Issuing Via ZFUEL** - This class will show users how to receive fuel, verify proper receipt, and issue fuel to vehicles via two different methods. The class concentrates on the accuracy of fuel data input and odometer readings, as well as identifying issues with incoming fueling data and resolving them. Presented by Brandon Arrington

**BSIP - Making Corrections-How to cancel and properly correct errors** – This class will show users how to correct entry errors. It will deal with incorrect parts, time and how to make cancellation and corrections. Presented by Brandon Arrington

**BSIP Odometer Readings View / Entry / Removal** - Presented by Brandon Arrington

**BSIP – Work Order Printing and Entry (MI/PMs** – This class will focus on work orders; 30-day inspections, preventative maintenance plans, and TD-18 maintenance orders. Concentration on the components of data (expectations, verifications, and input) along with work order printing and storage. Presented by: Brandon Arrington

**BSIP – Work Orders (TD-18) and Non-Stock Parts** - Presented by: Brandon Arrington

**Cal-Amp Powered by Synovia** – This is a training and product demo for software. Presented by: CalAmp Representative

**Carolina Thomas Advanced Electrical and Disc Brakes Troubleshooting** – This is a two-hour session.  
LEAs A-M and LEAs N-Y (see schedule)

**Carolina Thomas Advanced Wiring Class** – This session is two hours.

**Carolina Thomas Braun Lift Service and Proper Maintenance** - This is a two-hour session.  
LEAs A-M and LEAs N-Y (see schedule)

**Carolina Thomas Electric Vehicles** –

**Carolina Thomas Going Electric** – Ride the new electric school bus. Presented by Roy Parks

**Carolina Thomas In-Depth AC Diagnostics and Repairs with Schematics** - This class is designed for the beginner or as a refresher for the more experienced techs. We will cover theory and principles of operation, automotive refrigeration, electric controls, and temperature control systems. This class includes training in diagnosis, testing, service and repair. Class Instructor: Jamie McCaskill, Journeyman Technician.  
LEAs A Thru M Class and LEAs - N Thru Y Class (2 HRs)

**Carolina Thomas Introduction to Octane C2**

**Carolina Thomas Parts Excelerator** – This is a one-hour session

**Closing Session and Dinner** – This is a working dinner. We will have our business meeting and election of officers. The officers will take their oath of office. We will announce award winners and service pins. There will be great door prizes.

**Conflict Resolution and Management** – presented by Thomas Miner, CMS

**Denso PowerEdge Aftertreatment System -**

1. Why Aftertreatment Systems Exist
2. Core Aftertreatment Components
3. How Regeneration Works
4. Ash Accumulation
5. Common Failure Modes and Risk Areas
6. Remanufactured / Reconditioned DPFs
7. Regulatory & Compliance Considerations
8. Aftermarket Compliance
9. Importance of Quality in Replacement Components
10. Strategic Takeaways for Bus Fleets

**Director's Panel Discussion** – Marlon Watson is the facilitator for this roundtable discussion on hot topics for Transportation Directors across the state.

**DPI Updates** – Updates to LEA staff on the happenings in the Legislature and any other information relevant for the school year. Presenter: Kevin Harrison, Section Chief, NCDPI.

**Edulog Athena Routing Training.** This session will show how to use some of the basic functions of Athena route management, including the relationships with the rest of the Athena suite including tablet-powered route sheets, time and attendance, and more. We will also discuss the latest Athena developments including stop optimization, point addressing and run directions powered by Google maps. All attendees are welcome, whether you have activated Athena or are considering it. Presenter:

**Edulog Smart Bus - Parent Portal, Web Query, School Tools Request and Web School Assistance.** - We will show best practices in how to provide schools with access to TIMS through Web School Assistant and even Web Query. The session will also cover how to make sure that parents receive the latest notifications with EDULOG's Parent Portal. School personnel can also enter transportation requests. This session will focus on best practices managing the data that supports your implementation of these important communications tools.

Presenter: Derek Graham

**Edulog Smart Bus – Tablets, Time and Attendance and Student Ridership.** Learn best practices for managing Edulog's tablet software and the Athena Time and Attendance interface. We will also provide instruction in managing your Student Ridership Data.  
Instructor:

**Federal Research and Assistance: Illegal Passing of Stopped School Buses** – The problem of illegal passing has been well documented in the industry, and the national highway traffic safety administration (NHTSA) has taken on a multi-pronged study of school bus illegal passing incidents. This session will dive into the project findings thus far and suggest appropriate actions to improve school bus safety. Specifically, we will discuss NHTSA's projects focusing on technology, law enforcement involvement, training and education, to name a few. Presented by: Derek Graham

**How to Make a Successful Vinyl Repair** – This demonstration will include cleaning, prepping, properly applying and cooking vinyl repair compounds to create a strong, (pick proof repair). Presented by: Jerry Davidian

**How to Properly Secure Wheelchairs on School Buses – Q'Straint**  
Presented by: Dennis Assaff

**Leadership for Managers and Supervisors** – How to Basics in Leadership. How to choose who will do what task. Becoming the driving force in your organization. Hiring superstars and mentoring falling stars. Time management for leaders. Presenter: Margery McGill, Johnston County Schools

**Navigating Political Relationships Working with School Administrators** – Dr. Matt Tedder, Stokes County Schools

**NC Best Bus Inspector Contest – Top Twelve Hands On** – The top twelve contestants compete for the title of Best Bus Inspector. Presenter: NCDPI Staff

**NC Best Bus Inspector Contest Written Exam** – The contestants for the competition will take the first part of the contest, the written exam. The top 12 scores will go on to compete in the hands-on test. Presenter: DPI Staff

**NC Bus Inspector Certification Course** – Inspection certification and re-certification class. Presenter: DPI Staff (Held at Buncombe County Bus Garage)

**NC Bus Inspector Certification Test** – Inspection certification and re-certification test. Remember for re-certification test a twenty-hour verification form must be turned in at the time of testing. Presenter: DPI Staff. (Held at Buncombe County Bus Garage)

**NTB Recommendations on Use of Lap/Shoulder Belts and CSRS** - The most recent recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board focuses on a school bus crash in Leander, TX. In this session we will break down the recommendations from that crash and do a survey of legislation, policy requirements, available resources and speculate on the legal implications of inaction. Presented by: Derek Graham

**Opening Session** – The NCPTA President, along with local dignitaries will welcome members to the Transposium. A dinner will be served.

**Pathwise (Formally TransAct) Training and Product Demo** –1) Discover why EZRouting™ (formerly Travel Tracker-Routing), a core product within our Transportation Management Platform, is your answer to efficient route management! With our school bus routing software, you can auto-generate optimized routes using AI, enabling you to swiftly adapt to changes, save time and fuel, and efficiently respond to driver shortages. Our cloud-based software is available on your smartphone, tablet, desktop, or laptop. Revolutionize your routing processes with EZRouting!

2) *Three Integrated Modules, Unlimited Efficiency Efficiency Bundle:* Experience the combined power of our EZRouting Driver Management, Vehicle Maintenance, and Dispatch modules when you purchase the Efficiency Bundle. Together, these fully integrated modules give you complete control over your entire vehicle and driver management process. Increase the efficiency of your transportation operations by pairing the route planning power of EZRouting with the ability to easily manage day-to-day operational challenges such as drivers being out, vehicles that fail inspections, or driver shortages. Presented by: Buttons Cheely

**Professionalism in School Transportation – Responding to Angry Customers** – In this session, we will discuss tips on turning negative situations into more positive outcomes. Presented by: Diane Elkins, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools

**Roundtable for Cost Clerks** – This open format session will allow people to converse about issues and solutions they face with BSIP and other areas of transportation. We all face the same challenges and sometimes hearing what a neighbor has accomplished just might help you as well. Facilitator: Debbie Nelson-Covington, Dare County Schools

**Roundtable for Managers and Supervisors** – Presented by: Margery McGill, Johnston County Schools

**Roundtable for Technicians (2hrs)**– This session is designed for mechanics only. The session will provide an opportunity for fellow mechanics to openly share their challenges and successes. Facilitator: Ralph Trango, Master Technician, Wake County Public School System Transportation Department, ASE Certified; Master School Bus Technician, Automotive Technician, ASE L2 Advanced Diesel Certified  
**RTrango1@WCPSS.Net**

**School Transportation Law and Policy Review – Kevin Harrison, NCDPI**

**Seon Safe Fleet Training Session** - presented by Joy Walsh

**SN – Transportation as a Related Service** – Many students who access public school transportation qualify for special education and related services. Some of those students also require transportation as a related service in order to access a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Transporting students with special needs commonly requires collaboration from varied disciplines and perspectives. Participants will gain an understanding of the legal and technical aspects of transportation as a related service. Presented by: Laurie Ray and Heidi Carico, NCDPI

**SN – Ride Ready!** – This session will focus on being prepared/mentally and behaviorally to get on the bus. Developing systems and exploring how to teach explicit expectations to students who ride their buses to improve behavior and safety. Presented by: Felicia Goodgion, NCDPI

**SN - Ensuring Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care** – This interactive session will provide participants with an overview of the ESSA foster care provisions for students, including school of origin transportation requirements. Scenarios will be processed, and participants will be able to ask questions about the challenges they face in these serving students. Presenter: Dr. Yatisha Blythe, NCDPI

**SN – Sensory Perception on the Bus** – This session will discuss how to help students with sensory perception disorder find a peaceful and comfortable ride on the school bus. . Presented by Carol Bowes, Director, Person County

**SN – PSU Panel: Collaborating for Students with Special Needs** – Panelist from large, medium, and small public-school units/districts will describe how they collaborate on training, assessing student needs, communication, and problem solving. Ample time will be reserved for questions and answers to promote large group discussion on desired topics. Presenters: Laurie Ray and PSU Representatives

**SN - Requirements for Students Experiencing Homelessness** - This session will provide participants with an outline of the transportation requirements under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for students who are experiencing homelessness. Discussion on working with the local homeless liaisons, strategies for providing the most cost-effective transportation services for students to and from school and determining the best interest of a student will also be addressed.

Presenter: Lisa Phillips

**SN – Transportation Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Including Service Animals.** This session provides an overview of how school systems can ensure equitable, safe, and legally compliant transportation for students with disabilities. We will examine required accommodation, discuss best practices for collaboration, and support students who use service animals. Attendees will gain practical guidance for developing clear procedures, training transportation personnel, and fostering an inclusive environment that supports all students' access to education. Presented by: Crystal Patrick, NCDPI

**SN – A Deep Dive into Transporting Students with Disabilities** – In this interactive session participants will be introduced to a variety of resources that support transportation of students with disabilities. Participants will work in groups to explore selected resources and they share takeaways with the larger group. Time will be allotted for a facilitated large group discussion of topics of interest that arise. Presented by: Crystal Patrick and Heidi Carico

**TD-1 Annual Report** – This class will focus on the TD-1 annual report components that come specifically from BSIP and the steps necessary to gather the data. Presented by Jaime Doran, NCDPI

**TD-10 Bus Statutes and Inventory Class (TD-10) Parked Bus Jeopardy and Replacement Identification** – Presented by Jaime Doran

**TD-19 Monthly Report for Directors - Presented by: Brandon Smith**

**TSA Homeland Security** – This session will cover all no-cost programs available for your LEA. The session will also cover general security Awareness for School Transportation. This session is offered twice, see schedule for details. Present by: Jason B. Marino, Transportation Security Inspector, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



**Team Building** – Get ready to connect, laugh, and learn as we explore the power of Teamwork in School Transportation! This interactive session will spark ideas to strengthen communication, trust, and collaboration – helping teams build a positive, energized culture that drives safety, efficiency, and great service. Presented by: Carla D. Boulware, Routing Operations, Guilford County Schools.

**Technology Overview for Mechanics: Email, APPS, MS Office** - This session will cover using your email, downloading and installing APPS and basic MS office programs. Presented by: Amanda Goodwin, Director of Transportation, Edenton-Chowan County Schools

**TIMS – Annual Service Indicators Dashboard Tool** - Presented by Kevin Hart, ITRE

**TIMS – Basic Routing Principals Tips and Tricks** – Presented by Drew McGomery

**TIMS – Batch Fill Data Tricks** – Presented by: Drew McGomery, TIMS Project Leader UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. This session will showcase how to import external codes into TIMS for various scenarios. Whether it's lost assignments from promotions, summer school, or some other need. Come see how to make your workflow more efficiently with the use of batch fill.

**TIMS – Boundary Refresher – Tips and Tricks**

Presented by: Bonnie Aycock-Person, ITRE

**TIMS - Bus Routing Competition (Sponsored by Edulog) Thursday 8am to Noon**

Are you the best TIMS operator in North Carolina? Come put your Edulog skills to the test versus other bus routers from across the state in the second annual TIMS Bus Routing Competition. Similar to the school bus inspector competition, TIMS operators will be given a bus routing scenario to complete in Edulog, and a winner will be chosen based on the final results of the bus routes created. This competition will require a full array of TIMS skills; from creating new stops, runs and routes, to shifting school bell times, reverse/copying runs, adding double loads to a bus, creating alternate stops for am/pm assignments, using/creating work lists and advanced searches, assigning students to stops, running driver reports, etc.

Must be pre-registered to participate. If more than 12 TIMS Operators are Registered, the final participants will be based on the Entrance Exam Results.

Presented/Hosted by: ITRE/UNCC Staff

**TIMS Competition Overview** – This session is for Pre-Registered Participants of the TIMS School Bus Routing Competition. Participants will receive an overview of the TIMS Competition and, if needed, complete an Entrance Exam to determine the Final 12 participants for Thursday morning. Pre-Registered Participants will receive additional information during Conference Check-In

**TIMS – Infinite Campus (The New PowerSchool)** – Presenter: Kevin Hart, ITRE. The TIMS & Infinite Campus session will provide an update on the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus as the North Carolina Statewide Student Information System. This session will show the most recent layout and discuss the general functionality of the Infinite Campus Student Transportation Screen to both communicate Transportation Requests to TIMS and accept backloads of TIMS Bus Stop and Route Information. Class is offered twice.

**TIMS – Maris Refresher Tips and Tricks** -Presented by: Drew McGomery, TIMS Project Leader UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. This session will concentrate on refreshing key Maris skills as well as sharing new tips and tricks to make map edits easier and more efficient. Presented by: Drew McGomery, UNCC

**TIMS – Server Management** Presented by: Marc Perez

**TIMS – The TIMS ESQLE Experience** – TIMS ESQLE includes google street maps and satellite imagery backgrounds as well as many enhanced search and assignment features to help with daily bus routing. Presented by: Alberto Centurion

**TIMS – Transfer Stops and Midday Runs** – Presented by Bonnie Aycock-Person. Establishing and Managing Transfer Stops and Mid-Day Runs are among the trickiest components of maintaining Bus Routes in TIMS. This session will provide users the opportunity to better understand, create and insert transfer stops within TIMS. This course will also cover preferred methodologies for setting up and managing irregular Mid-Day Runs.

**Tort Claims – Judicial Decision Affecting Local LEAs** – A review of the Tort Claims litigation process specific to school-bus cases, including what cases are covered under the NC Tort Claims Act, an emphasis on the discovery process, and what role county personnel play when cases go to trial. A review of any judicial rulings that have come out in the last year that affect Tort Claims school bus-related litigation. Presenter: Shelly Perry, Tort Claims Investigator Supervisor, NCDOJ

**Tort Claims Paperwork and Procedures** – A review of the process of gathering and completing information after yellow school bus accidents, as well as the role of the tort

Claims Investigator Team in processing the matters. A review of various types of situations that may arise and how to handle them and what is needed for our office to assist. Presenter: Shelly Perry, Tort Claims Investigator Supervisor, NCDOJ

**Trade Show** – Meet the vendors who supply our buses and everything in between. See new and innovative ideas from companies across the nation. Take a stroll through the expo center and meet vendors and discuss transportation needs.

**Transportation Director's Report** – Presented by: Kevin Harrison, NCDPI

**Transportation Funding and Budget Rating Simulator** - Learn the basics of transportation funding as well as how to use the budget rating simulator to look at how changes in operations will impact your funding. Presented by: Kevin Harrison

**White's IC Bus – Advanced Electrical Troubleshooting (Diesel Exhaust Fluid)** - LEAs A- M and LEAs N-Y (see schedule)

**White's IC Bus** - Cummins Lube Oil/Coolant Flow & Diagnostics. This is a 2-hour session.

**White's IC Bus** - EV Bus Overview/Tech Maintenance 1 hour class

**White's IC Bus** – OnCommand / Electrical Systems – one hour class

**White's IC Bus** - The Next Gen IC Bus Overview – The next GEN Overview is a class designed to give techs and drivers an updated introduction to the bus. You will see how maintenance on the bus has been simplified along with the electronics. See how all the new features and upgrades work.

**White's IC Bus** - TransAir AC Preventative Maintenance two hour session.

**Wrecker Training** – This session will be held outdoors in the Expo Center Parking Lot.