

revised 04/30/25

2025 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

AMF Bruns America – Discover AMF-Bruns of America. Your Global Partner for Vehicle Mobility Solutions. Learn about our mission, explore our innovative products, and discover what sets us apart as a leading supplier of mobility equipment for all types of vehicles. Product Demo – Presented by Jeff Allgire

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 -Black's Tire Service 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. Classes are scheduled for LEAs A Thru M - N Thru Y

Blue Bird Propane Engine Orientation and Maintenance – Attendees and classes are scheduled based on the beginning letter of your LEA. This is a two-hour session. Classes are scheduled for LEAs A Thru M - N Thru Y - Presented by: Mike Howell, Frank Barker and Kirk Burns

Blue Bird and Rifled Air AC Class –

Attendees and classes are scheduled based on the beginning letter of your LEA. Classes are scheduled for LEAs A Thru M - N Thru Y
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 - Bus Statutes and Inventory Class (TD-10) Parked Bus Jeopardy and Replacement Identification – Presented by Jaime Doran

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

BSIP - Director's Report – How to interpret the monthly transportation director's report and address issues.

Presenter: Kevin Harrison

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 - 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

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

Bus Accidents and Dealing with The Media – Class will concentrate on dealing with school bus crashes, insurance claims, policy and procedures concerning the media.

Presented by David Reid

BusPlanner Power User Panel Discussion – This session will have users from across the state sharing their experiences with this software. They can answer questions and provide details on daily use.

ByteCurve Product Demo – This session will be a demo of our software. This will cover scheduling, dispatching, payroll and driver communication. Presenter: Roderick Carrasco

Cal-Amp Powered by Synovia – This is a training and product demo for software. Presented by: Eddie Sutton

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 for LEAs A-M and LEAs N-Y, (see schedule)

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 – LEAs A-M and N-Y, See Schedule

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 Parts Accelerator – This is a one-hour session

Closing Session and Dinner – This is a working dinner and also a Western Theme. Please come in your best western attire. 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.

District 4 Members Meeting – This session is for all district 4 members.
Presenter: Rinaldo Branson

DMV –Q & A Session for Directors – This is a session designed for director to ask questions concerning information new or changed policies regarding school buses. Presenter: Terry Fuller, NCDMV

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 Athena activated or are considering it. Presenter: Sara Corbally.

Edulog Parent and School Communication. We will show best practices in how to provide schools 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: Shawna Knudson

Embracing Change: Thriving as a Mechanic in 2025 - To help mechanics embrace change, this workshop will focus on the importance of adaptability in the ever-evolving school bus industry.

- Workshop Title: "Embracing Change: Thriving as a Mechanic in 2025"
- Target Audience: School bus mechanics, and shop staff.
- Workshop Objectives:
 - How to work with the "that's not my job" mentality?
 - Effective Driver/Mechanic Relationships - What does this look like?
 - Creating a growth mindset
 - Embracing new team members

Presenters: Kristi Harden, Executive Director, Billy and Zach, Cumberland County Schools

EverDriven – Alternative Transportation for McKinney-Vento and Exceptional Children (Product Demo) Presenter: Gerald Bernayl

This will be a tutorial and training on ALC Schools' web portal aka "web dashboard". All existing ALC clients as well as those interested in more information about the web portal are encouraged to attend. ALC will review how to use the web portal to

- (1) view and track live ALC trips,
- (2) how to view and monitor an ALC student's ride history
- (3) how to view and verify ALC trip on-time-performance
- (4) how to quickly and easily submit new transportation requests including submitting one request for multiple siblings
- (5) how to give limited access to principals, case workers and other support staff, and much more! Presenter: Gerald Bernayl

Highland Electric Fleets – This is a product demo presented by Siobhan Nicklow

How to Increase Ridership Through Media Communication – This session will discuss strategies for districts to increase their yellow bus ridership through mainstream media as well as social media outlets. Presented by Dr. Matt Tedder

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: Cholly Farrow, Transportation Supervisor, New Hanover County Schools

NCASA Session – (North Carolina Association of School Administrators) NCPTA has two representatives that serve on this board. This would be a legislative update.

NC Best Bus Inspector Contest – Top Twelve Hands On – The top twelve contestants compete with each other 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)

NHTSA Safer School Bus Stops and Routes Toolkit - This session begins with a discussion of the entire school bus stop ecosystem. Attendees will learn that planning a school bus stop involves more than simply denoting an address or an intersection. Primary components of the ecosystem are the pedestrian travel path, the waiting area / bus stop location and the bus route. The session further explores the components of the online toolkit provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Specific components to be covered include roadway characteristics, walkable infrastructure, bus stop waiting area, and visibility. Also covered are basics of route design and route hazards and implementation of procedures to improve school bus stop and route safety. Presented by: Derek Graham

Opening Session – Carolina Strong - The NCPTA President, along with local dignitaries will welcome members to the Transposium. Jeremy Stowe, Buncombe County will discuss the many challenges of Hurricane Helen. A dinner will be served.

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, Dare County Schools

Roundtable for Directors - Come join fellow transportation administrators from around the state discuss current issues and resolutions. Perhaps someone has an idea that has paid off in their LEA that can benefit you. Facilitator: Brian McClung, Director Cleveland County Schools

Roundtable for Managers and Supervisors – Presented by: Bonnie Sluder, Wake 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 Bus Evacuation – Presented by Montavia Heath, Johnston County

School Transportation Law and Policy Review – Kevin Harrison, NCDPI

Service Trucks – Are You Prepared for Most Events – Presented by: Justin Crosier, Pitt County

SN – A Discussion for Updating the Exceptional Children Manual - This session will be a roundtable for the exchange of ideas in updating the state wide exceptional children's manual. The creation of a committee will also be addressed.

Presenter: Kristi Harden, Executive Director, Cumberland County Schools and Jabar Duncan, Operations Director, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

SN - Collaborating to Safely Transport Every Student - This interactive, practical session will offer scenarios to work in small groups to identify available resources, clarify best practices, and develop strategies to ensure individual student needs can be met for safe transportation. Presented By: Laurie Ray, Bridgette LeCompte, Heidi Carico

SN – Communication is Key for Safe Transportation (Q/A Session) - During this interactive session presenters will begin with a focus on the communication that is necessary in order to provide safe transportation services. Participants will then have a chance to pose questions to the presenters and participate in a large group discussion pertaining to those questions. Presented by: Heidi Carico, Laurie Ray, and Bridgette LeCompte

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 – It Pays to Make Friends with Your EC Parents Transportation – You can begin well with your EC parents or you have the potential for constant conflict for seventeen years of school bus transportation. We will learn some strategies to calm the troubled Mom. Presented by Carol Bowes, Director, Person County

SN – Legal Aspects of Transportation as a Related Service - This session will provide participants with an overview of the 14 disabling conditions under which students can qualify for special education and related services. It will further discuss implications for safe transport of students based on characteristics of their disability.

Presenters: Laurie Ray and Heidi Carico

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. Session offered twice

Presenter: Lisa Phillips

SN – Supporting Students with Autism Who Access School Transportation - This session will provide an overview of characteristics of students with autism and how those characteristics may impact students while they are accessing public school transportation. Participants will learn about supports that can be implemented to help students have a positive transportation experience as well as resources that may be available within their public-school unit to provide additional professional learning and assistance when needed.

Presented by: Heidi Carico

SN – Understanding the 14 Disabling Conditions, Implications for Safe Transportation - This session will provide participants with an overview of the 14 disabling conditions under which students can qualify for special education and related services. It will further discuss implications for safe transport of students based on characteristics of their disability.

Presented by: Heidi Carico

State Surplus Property – Areas covered will be: State Surplus provides an audit trail for the disposition of supplies, materials and equipment in the possession of the State of North Carolina and purchased with state funds, personal property donated to the state, or personal property purchased with other funds that give ownership to the state that is no longer needed by a state agency. Presented by: Christopher Carrington, Warehouse Manager

Sunshine The Safety Bus - Teaching School Bus safety to our students is critical at a young age so our riders can develop good habits. This presentation will show how Buncombe County Schools Transportation Department takes a school bus to area pre-schools to start teaching students how to ride the bus safely. This program also serves as a positive marketing tool for the department and the district as a whole. Presenter: Jeremy Stowe, Transportation Director, Buncombe County

Team Building – Participants will engage in activities that will help improve team work, communication skills and to accept challenges that occur in the workplace. Come and have some fun! Facilitator: Deb Zeiber, Cumberland 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 – Monday, 1pm Salon F

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 – Interactions with 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 Managing Driver Updates and Student Removals –

Presented by: Kevin Hart, ITRE

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 – New Routers (A Year in TIMS) Presented by: Bonnie Aycock-Person

TIMS – The TIMS ESQL Experience – TIMS ESQL 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 – This session is offered twice. 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: Lisa Pakela, Special Deputy Attorney General, 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.

Trade Show for Decision Makers Only– This allows directors and supervisors who make purchasing decisions early access with the vendors. Must have stamped access on name tag. They will also have lunch with them.

Train The Trainer – This class will be an overview on training your in-house trainers.

The following subjects will be covered:

- Classroom training materials and handouts.
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Training Standards that are covered before, during and after training.
- What new hire candidates will learn while training with their certified trainers.

Presented by Michael Stegall and Paula Campbell, Union County School Transportation

TransAct Training and Product Demo – With EZ Transportation, you can efficiently and effectively manage your transportation program planning and scheduling, daily route management, school and parent communication, fleet maintenance, activity trip coordination and more all from within a single integrated platform. This will enable your team to prioritize student safety, streamline their day-to-day operations and enhance driver retention. Presented by: Buttons Cheely

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

Type C School Bus, Service Trucks, Fuel and Wrecker Specification Class – A new type C school bus contract has been awarded by purchasing and contracts. The class will discover what's new on the Type C bus specifications for a school bus. It will include a review of the service trucks, fuel and wrecker specifications and orders. Participants will be able to provide feedback on what is good and what is not good for vehicles.

Presented by: Kevin Harrison

Using Communication to Recruit Drivers – Using social and digital media engagement initiatives and working with school staff across the departments. Presented by Thomas Miner, Operations Specialist, CMS

White's IC Bus - Cummins Lube Oil/Coolant Flow & Diagnostics LEAs
A - M (2 hrs.)

White's IC Bus - Cummins Lube Oil/Coolant Flow & Diagnostics LEAs
N - Y (2 hrs.)

White's IC Bus - EV Bus Overview/Tech Maintenance LEAS A-M 1 hr.

White's IC Bus - EV Bus Overview/Tech Maintenance LEAS N-Y 1 hr.

White's IC Bus – OnCommand / Electrical Systems LEAs A-M (1hr)

White's IC Bus – OnCommand / Electrical Systems LEAs N-Y (1hr)

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
LEAs A – M (2 hrs.)

White's IC Bus - TransAir AC Preventative Maintenance
LEAs N – Y (2 hrs.)