



**Announcing  
\$5,200 in Awards  
To be awarded at State Contest**

**Available to any 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Student in a Public School in Texas**

## **24<sup>th</sup> Annual School Bus Safety Speech Contest**

**Topic:  
“Safety First – Safety Always”**

**Sponsored by:**

**[Empty box]**

**ESC Region 12**

**McCurdy Family**

**Angela Lamb-Waddell**

**[Empty box]**

### **Contest Rules & Information**

1. Students in grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 in Texas public schools are eligible to participate. \*\*
2. 2024 – 2025 Speech topic theme is:  
“**Safety First – Safety Always**”
3. All entrants must be pre-registered on-line.
4. Only one 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade participant from each public school district/charter may compete at a local Region contest, facilitated by each of the 20 Education Service Centers throughout Texas. *A representative of the school district (official, administrator, transportation director) must register students to assure **only one student from each grade level per district** is entered to compete at the Regional level. Entries accepted on-line only.*
5. District and region elimination contests must be held on or before the dates listed in the schedule of events (see back page). The State Contest date is also listed. This date may be subject to change.
6. Length of speech must be at least four (4) minutes, and not more than six (6) minutes. Contestants shall be penalized one (1) point for every ten (10) seconds that the speech deviates from the minimum or maximum time lengths.
7. Student must present speech **without** the use of notes, printed material or props. Speech must be their own original speech, although quotes will be permitted. Contestant must write/present his/her own speech.
8. Contestants may, but are not required to, introduce themselves. No points will be added or deducted.
9. No person may enter or leave the room while contestants are speaking.
10. Only one contestant, the one reciting his/her speech, will be allowed in the same room as the judges when speeches are being delivered. No other contestants will be allowed in the presentation room.
11. Contestants must prepare and submit to the site coordinator eight (8) (“WORD” document – minimum 14 point) complete, typed copies of the speech at registration. Once registered, decisions are final.
12. Contestants must prepare and include a complete and accurate bibliography used in writing the speech and attach it to each copy of the manuscript. No bibliography will result in disqualification.

13. Contestants at both Region and State contests will draw a number and be introduced to speak in order of the number drawn.

14. A timekeeper will keep the student’s time using a timing device. Time will be announced and recorded at the conclusion of each speech.

15. Judges will have knowledge of public speaking and/or school bus safety. Each judge will have copies of score sheets, contest rules and other relevant information regarding the contest.

16. Score sheets will be totaled; M.C. will announce winners by name, grade, school district and region.

17. First place winners from each grade level from each of the 20 Regions will be eligible to compete for State awards at the State finals contest.

18. Final scores will determine first, second and third place winners for each grade level at State. Awards are listed in this brochure.

19. Texas Association for Pupil Transportation will present Scholarship awards to winners, except first place overall. The first place overall winner must present his/her speech and receive the award at the State TAPT Conference in Fort Worth, TX in June, 2025.

\*\* Home school students must be affiliated with and registered by their local public district to participate.

**Register online at  
[www.tapt.com](http://www.tapt.com)  
(Events)**

**For further information contact:**

**Pam McCurdy  
[speech@tapt.com](mailto:speech@tapt.com)  
(254) 716-3885  
2024 – 2025 Speech Chairman  
Texas Association for Pupil Transportation**

**Total of \$5,200**

**Scholarship payments  
provided by**

**Sponsors of TAPT**

**Overall 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$ 1,000 Check**  
**State Other 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$ 600 Check**  
**State 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$ 400 Check**  
**State 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$ 200 Check**

**Schedule of Events**

**Local District Contest:**

Winners from each grade level must be registered online by 4:00 pm, February 7, 2025. **No** late registrations will be accepted. One 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade student from each participating school district may advance to the Region Contest. Each school district will decide on a method for advancement and register students to compete at Region.

**Region Contest:**

To be completed by March 14, 2025. First place winner from each grade level from each of the 20 regions will advance to the State Finals. (Potentially 80 participants)

**State Contest Finals:**

Regional winners will participate in the State Contest Finals in Waco on April 28, 2025. (Time and location will be announced.) Three winners will be chosen - first, second and third from each grade level. Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher must present his/her speech at the TAPT Conference in June, 2025 in Fort Worth, Texas (1 hotel room provided).

Score Max	Explanation of Score Sheet Points
22	INTRODUCTION – includes: Did introduction gain attention? Did introduction lead into the speech? Was the theme clearly stated? Did thematic statement include a preview? Did the speaker establish credibility? Was the topic adapted to the audience?
32	BODY – includes: Were main points clearly identifiable? Were transitions effective? Did speaker use adequate support material? Did speaker cite sources adequately?
16	CONCLUSION – includes: Did it summarize the info provided? Did it provide definite closure? Did it leave the speech on a high note? Did the speaker adhere to time guidelines of 4 – 6 minutes? Bibliography included? Length of speech in time: _____
30	DELIVERY – includes: Was the delivery enthusiastic? Did the speaker have good eye contact? Were other aspects of nonverbal delivery effective? Did the speaker use vocal variety & good projection? Did the speaker present him/herself in a professional manner?
<b>100</b>	<b>Total Maximum Score</b>



**2024 - 2025**

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
School Bus Safety  
Speech Contest  
Established 2000-2001**

**“Safety First –  
Safety Always”**

**Texas  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Public School Students**

**Overall Winner  
\$1,000  
Scholarship**